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CV:

Kul Bhushan Mohtra was born on 9th Sep, 1957 in a village Amuwala in Kathua district.

Matric from BOSE, Jammu and Adeeb from AMU. Has been awarded Honorary Professor by School of Liberal Art & Languages, Shobhit University, Gangoh, Distt. Saharanpur, U.P.

Director General, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation nominated him as his nominee in the Committee for purchasing of Books for UT Jammu & Kashmir. Incharge of Nanaji Deshmukh Library & Documentation Department at BJP state HQ in J&K.

Actively engaged in political, social, charitable and religious activities. Always striving to serve the poor and downtrodden of the society.

Main works-

A saga of Sacrifices: Praja Parishad Movement in J&K

100 Documents: A reference book J&K, Mission Accomplished

A Compendium of Icons of Jammu & Kashmir & our Inspiration (English)

Jammu Kashmir ki Sangarsh Gatha (Hindi)

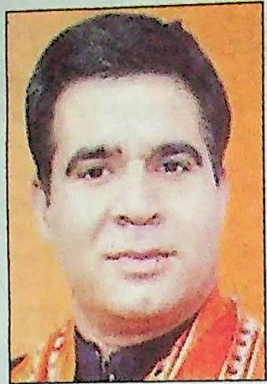
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STATE TIMES



THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K NOW IN DELHI

Euphoria erupts, Jammu rejoices on abrogation of Art 370



Ravinder Raina, State BJP Chief welcomed the "historic" decision on Article 370 of the Constitution.

Reacting to the developments after Home Minister Amit Shah moved a resolution in Rajya Sabha to revoke Article 370, Raina said the residents of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of their caste, creed and religion are with the prime minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. The entire population of the State is thankful to him (Modi) for mitigating their pain," Raina said. "Modi was the first to reach out to Kashmiris when they were facing the brunt of devastating floods in 2014. He visited them and made every effort to ensure their safety," he added.



Priya Sethi, former minister shared, "I congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the historic decision to revoke Article 370.

This will be a bold step towards strengthening national integration. The decision will help the people of Jammu and

Kashmir the most.

More investment, more industry, more private educational institutions, more jobs and more revenue will come. Moreover, females who marry outside the state can now enjoy their rights."

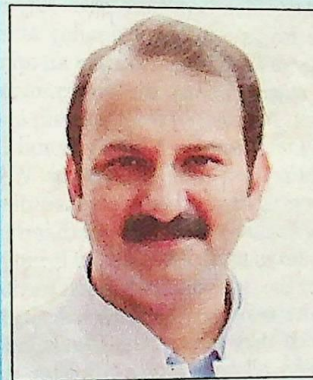


Advocate Prem Sadhotra, former General Secretary Bar Association Jammu has congratulated the Government of India and people of the country for scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that both these Articles in the Constitution were used against the unity and integrity of the country by terming these as a bridge between the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the Union of India.

He said that the Congress Government under the Nehru Rule weakened the country by creating these Articles which have now been scrapped by following the policy of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. He said that the whole country is celebrating this historic step.

Despite restrictions, euphoria erupted in Jammu over abrogation of Article 370, Article 35A, reorganisation of the State with people visiting temples for thanks-giving and greeting each other over freedom from subjugation. People spoke vehemently over the bold decision of Modi government at the Centre.



Describing creation of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) as two new Union Territories (UTs), **BJP State executive member, Raman Suri** said that by scrapping Article 370 of Indian Constitution the NDA Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has rewritten history and ended all riders of this State for being an integral part of India. In a state-

ment issued here on Monday, Suri said with this decision of creating two new UTs, BJP led coalition government has fulfilled its promise made with the people of India and paid tributes to Syama Prasad Mukherjee who laid down his life for seeing One Nation, One Flag, One Constitution in India.

Suri said that today a history has been made that has also ended discrimination or one-upmanship of one region over two others. He said that with abrogation of Article 370 justice has been done with women whose state subjects used to be cancelled after marriage and Ladakh has been given its due share. "Both UTs will now unfurl Tricolour and people from rest of India will be able to buy properties here like people from Kashmir, Ladakh and Jammu had been purchasing in rest of India", he said.

Suri said that political leaders in Kashmir who had been spreading lies, hatred and indulging in divisive politics must reconcile to the fact and try to do mainstream politics for the simple reason that they stand rejected by progressive people of Kashmir as well. He said time has come to move on and decide about strengthening economy of new UTs now. "Those who still oppose scrapping of Article 370 or 35A are living in fool's paradise and must understand that the new UTs under new Lieutenant Governors will get on the path of peace and progress", he said.



Col Dr Virendra K Sahi, Vrc, State Director of War Decorated India said, "Abrogation of Articles 370/35A has been a long awaited and most cherished decision of the Government. It has sent a frenzy of jubilation among the nationalist population of the State. Everyone barring a few political dynastic beneficiaries have welcomed the decision and complimented the Prime Minister and Home Minister for this bold decision in face of all threats hurled by the so called mainstream politicians, who exploited the State for seven decades and be fooled the people. "This day will be marked in the history with golden words. It shall be a turning point not only for shift of power but also for ushering the State in an era of peace and prosperity to promote tourism and development. The pristine glory of the crown state may return again very soon," he said.

Bhupinder Singh, Vice Chairman J&K ReT Teachers Forum, welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.

"It was the need of the hour to remove this Article to cope up with country's most dreaded enemies active in Kashmir. The Valley based political leaders are responsible for the present situation in the State and it is hoped that now the scenario will change. BJP Government has fulfilled its commitment and the people of Jammu region will get now get their due share," Singh maintained. "Leaders of NC and PDP have looted the State by taking undue benefit of Article 370," Singh said and appealed to the government to hold probe against the wealth accumulated by them.



Anil Sharma, a trader termed the abrogation of Article 370 as a monumental decision towards national integration. He said that BJP has fulfilled its commitment by ending decades-long discrimination with the peace loving and nationalistic people of Jammu region. Sharma said Article 370 is not actually a part of the Constitution, as it has got incorporated through a Presidential Order in 1954 and worked against the interests of the people of the State. "We welcome the courageous step taken by the Government. This was very essential for the interest of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the entire country. Rising from selfish motives and political differences, everyone should welcome and support this move," Sharma added.

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Nirmal Singh too congratulated the people and said that the whole country had waited for over 70 years for this moment.



"Jammu and Kashmir has integrated into India and the historic decision of the Centre will further cement its relation with J&K. The bill will get passed to fulfil the long standing dream of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Singh said. The BJP-led government is completing the work left behind by Sardar Patel who integrated 562 princely states including Jammu and Kashmir to lay the foundation of strong India, he said.

"The beginning has started and will be taken to its logical conclusion," he said accusing country's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru for creating a provision under Article 370 to guarantee special status to Jammu and Kashmir as part of his policy to appease National Conference founder, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

Describing the scrapping of Article 370 a historic step, **former MLA Udhampur Pawan Gupta** said that this historic decision of the Central Government is a true tribute to late Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Prem



Nath Dogra and all other leaders who fought for Ek Pradhan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan and sacrificed their lives.

Gupta said that this is the most bold and commendable step of the present government in comparison to all previous governments. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has duly acknowledged the aspirations of the people of entire country who had pinned their full faith on him for scrapping the Article 370. Gupta said that the Article 370, had been misused by the leaders of Kashmir and had created a spirit of separatism and sense of alienation and never allowed the emotional integration of Kashmir with the rest of the country.

Pawan Gupta has expressed confidence that this will usher in a new era of fostering and hastening pace of development in Jammu and Kashmir and will put a full stop to separatist forces and terrorism. He congratulated the Union Government and all the citizens of the country for this historic decision.

Abrogation of Article 370 rekindles hope for Naya Jammu and Kashmir



Welcoming the historic decision taken by the NDA Government regarding abrogation of controversial Article 370, **Radhika Choudhary**, a Jammu-girl settled in Pune shared, "Wow Article 370 and Article 35A are gone. It is really an incredible move taken by Modi Government. I am very much happy that now my children can enjoy all the rights in their mother's home-town. I hope

that now the socio-economic status of Kashmiri people will improve, who earlier were leading a miserable life. The abrogation of Article 370 will definitely bring a huge change in Jammu & Kashmir." Choudhary further said that repeal of Article 370 was a long pending demand of nationalist people of J&K but the issue was always used by various political parties just for vote bank politics, without caring for the aspirations of people. By removing the controversial Article 370, the BJP Government has fulfilled the long pending demand of Jammu people, which is really appreciable, she added.



Shruty Sharma, a Jammuite settled abroad said, "I think with abrogation of Article 370, the Centre has brought Jammu and Kashmir nearer to the rest of the nation. Article 370 has 'crushed democracy' in Jammu and Kashmir and halted development process. Moreover, it was an anti-people measure-- the main reason for poverty in Jammu and Kashmir. It was an illogical and

invalid Article, but I am surprised that no one ever tried to remove it till date. I congratulate entire country for this historical decision. I am sure that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. I feel that abrogation of Article 370 is rising of 'New Kashmir', where everyone can enjoy his rights without any fear or discrimination like other parts of country."

Despite restrictions, euphoria erupted in Jammu over abrogation of Article 370, Article 35A, reorganisation of the State with people visiting temples for thanks-giving and greeting each other over freedom from subjugation. People spoke vehemently over the bold decision of Modi government at the Centre.



Lamenting the political parties and leaders raising hue and cry on removal of Article 370, **Manya**, a working woman said, "All these politicians, protesting against the historic decision taken by Modi Government in reality are worried for their own vested interests, as by

repealing Article 370 and turning J&K into a Union Territory, their shops have been closed. These leaders always worked for their own benefits besides enjoying power corridors, without thinking for welfare of common people. These leaders always enjoyed patronage of their Delhi-friends and huge funds meant for the development of the State was diverted to their pockets. One can easily imagine that even after 70 years of independence, J&K is not undeveloped as funds meant for the welfare of common man were used somewhere else. She further said, "Scrapping of Article 370 was long due but no successive Government displayed the courage to remove it. Hats off to the duo Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. These guys really turned people's dream into a reality."

Hailing the NDA Government for abrogation of Article 370, **Dr Neha Sharma** said, "I welcome the courageous step taken by the Union Government. It was very essential in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as entire country. Rising from selfish motives and political differences, everyone should welcome and support this move, which



has been taken for the welfare of J&K people. The Article 370 was responsible for numerous crises in the State, including unemployment, corruption, mis-governance and many others. Moreover, due to Article 35A, people of the State in general and women in particular suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination with them. Being a J&K woman, I am very much delighted as removal of this Article will end the decades long discrimination with females," asserted Neha. "Some politicians, termed this provision as a bridge between J&K and India, but in reality, it increased distance between people and the country. Thanks God, after a long period, these controversial articles have been removed by the Government," said Neha, adding that abrogation of Article 370 will lead to equitable development of both the regions.

Expressing gratitude to the Union Government for fulfilling long pending demand of people, **Vaishali Sharma**, a housewife said, "It is a historic day in the history of J&K. People are just on the moon. We have waited a long for this day and are overjoyed that finally our wait is over and the day has arrived. Thanks to Modi Government for resolving the issue, due to which J&K was lagging behind in every sector. The Article 370 acted as a hindrance on the path of development due to which people of the State suffered manifold. But, the resolute BJP government demonstrated the courage and determination to do the right. Now, I am sure that Jammu & Kashmir will develop with a fast pace like other states of India. Being a Jammu girl, I am glad to be a witness of this historic moment, when J&K has achieved Independence in real sense."



Feeling overwhelmed on the historic decision, **Subh Lakshmi**, a senior citizen said, "It is a bold, historic and much-needed change for J&K. The Article 370 was a big mistake done by few vested interests, without taking care of people's aspirations. People suffered a lot due to this controversial provision, as it was the root cause of miseries including unemployment, corruption, lack of development and terrorism. I believe that this historic decision will make Kashmir terrorism-free and lead it on the path of overall development." I would like to congratulate Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for taking this significant decision. I am sure that abrogation of Article 370 would definitely improve the socio-economic status of people to a great extent, she added.



Repeal of Article 370 will give boost to big industry in J&K



Arun Sharma, Provincial President, All Jammu Kashmir Panchayat Conference (AJKPC) welcomed the decision regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A taken by the Union Government.

Sharma urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to take all possible measures to

control Valley-based political leaders who misled people for their personal motives. He assailed these leaders for creating a sense of panic among the people and held them responsible for present situation in the Valley.

He said the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are whole-heartedly welcoming the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and are hoping that they will witness new era of development soon.



Arun Mehram a youth leader also welcomed removal of Articles 370 and 35A, saying this has enthused the people who are confident that this will help bring big industry to Jammu & Kashmir, thereby giving a major boost to the employability.

He added that Article 370 was the biggest blunder and mistake of past which has been corrected now after 70 years by the Modi Government. He said that today entire India is rejoicing the moment, as Jammu and Kashmir will also move ahead on path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Almost all segments of society are elated over the abrogation of Article 370, saying this will pave the way for massive industrialisation in Jammu and Kashmir that will lead to employment of educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled workforce. Apart from economic progress, industrial development and ending the sense of deprivation, this measure has satiated the urges and aspirations of all sections of society.



Radhika Khanna, a housewife also welcomed scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, saying none other than Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has the courage to take such a daring step for the welfare of people of Jammu,

Kashmir and Ladakh. Lauding the Prime Minister, she said that this bold decision will go a long way for development of J&K and would be recorded in annals of the history in golden letters, "Article 370 was not only ill-conceived but very much against basic principles of the constitution itself, which provides equal rights to all people of the country," she added.

Corporator Kamal Sharma said the people of Jammu region are really happy. He said that earlier in the 'State with two flags' people were living like slaves. He said the people would extend full support to every initiative taken for overall development of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that earlier there was no future for children in the State but after scrapping of Article 370, the people of Jammu are feeling a sense of confidence.



Highlighting the misery of people due to Article 370, he said about 60 years ago, in the wake of Hartal by local Safaikaramcharis, about 250 Valmiki Safaikaramcharis were brought from Punjab for maintaining cleanliness in the State. Even after passing of six decades, these poor people were deprived of citizenship rights. Till date, their children are unable to get any other job than Safaikaramcharis despite attaining higher education, but with abrogation of Article 370 they will also get their due rights.

Corporator Arun Khanna expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for taking historic, bold and game-changing decision. "People of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling sense of freedom from dictatorship of Kashmiri leaders after seven decades. People are celebrating independence from the slavery of corrupt politicians of Kashmir Valley," Khanna said and extended full support to the BJP Government at the Centre for every endeavour taken for overall benefit and betterment of people of Jammu and Kashmir.



Bitu Kumar, a shopkeeper hailed the bold step taken by Narendra Modi led NDA Government, saying that Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Balraj Madhok and Prem Nath Dogra had sacrificed their lives for abrogation of Article 370 to integrate J&K fully with India. He said repeal of Article 370



will be real tribute to these great leaders, who stood for total integration of J&K with India and sacrificed their lives. "We assure full support to the Government of India headed by Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking the historic decision and express gratitude towards entire NDA Government for fulfilling the dream of Jana Sangh Founder, Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Balraj Madhok," he added. He further demanded that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Aksai-Chin, as mentioned by Union Home Minister, Amit Shah in the Parliament, should also be merged with India without wasting any time.

Realisation In Pakistan, Deception In Kashmir

JAMMU: Even as the Kashmir mainstream (so-called) is turning secessionists-par excellence, more so in the wake of abrogation of Article 35A, the realization is fast dawning on most of the people across the Valley and in Pakistan too. Congress General Secretary and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha may conveniently call Kashmiris as 'sold-out' for their 'sin' of partaking lunch with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, much to his and his ilk in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country, how will he react to the opinion of Naila Inayat, a freelance journalist from Pakistan, which has appeared in The Print (8 August 2019). And for that matter what would be the take of self-styled columnists like Barkhas, Suhasinis, Arundhatis who leave no opportunity to nail India by misusing their right to freedom of expression.

Many people in Pakistan, (If not

the government, the army and the ISI, who are as good or worse than Kashmiri Netas, separatists, Indian pseudo secularists and self-styled activists) realise the ground realities while those in India tend to indulge in deception for obvious motivations. Azads, Muftis, Abdullahs, Geelanis, Malikis, Shahs and all sorts of India bashers and actors of 'treachery' might be feeling a sense of deprivation as their shops of profit are going to shut down from now but the nationalists to the core and humanists in essence, both in India and Pakistan feel a sense of accomplishment. That is what Naila Inayat tries to spell out in these words:-

When the Narendra Modi government scrapped the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and announced its decision to turn the state into a Union Territory on Monday, it caught the Thekedars of Kashmir in Pakistan off guard.

The reactions from the Imran Khan government were anything but serious, that too for a piece of land they once called their own.

Honestly, losing cricket matches to India have had better reactions in Pakistan. But the bigger question is: can Imran Khan's government run without a Kashmir cause, as the saying goes 'hukoomat petrol se nahin, Kashmir cause se chalti hai'.

Everyone in the ruling elite sold the 'Kashmir banega Pakistan' chooran to the best of their benefit - those in the Pakistani military to keep themselves viable, the politicians to use it during elections, the religious cartel to fan anti-Hindu sentiments, and the ordinary Pakistani to just watch all of them make hay.



SPECIAL REPORT

'Kashmir banega Pakistan' is what we were told as kids. 'But how will it become a part of Pakistan when it is in India?' We would ask. 'Kashmir hamari shahrag hai (Kashmir is the jugular vein of Pakistan)'. So how are we managing to survive without this vein? The questions, we were told, had no answers, so they better not be asked either.

Growing up in the 1990s, our daily dose of brainwashing involved a 20-minute programme on Kashmir after the 9 PM news on Pakistan Television. With Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's Iss duniya k gham jane kab hu gy kam playing in the background, we saw agonising images of Kashmir. It would eulogise Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Syed Ali Shah Geelani and other Kashmiri leaders - we were told that these men were the real heroes.

'Our heart should bleed for Kashmir,' was the loud and clear message. But how can the heart bleed for something that was only a state-imposed reality? We would think.

The rulers of Pakistan came and went but what remained unchanged was Pakistan's Kashmir cause. A cause for which daring to be indifferent amounted to blasphemy of sorts.

Once a year, Pakistanis would get a day to free Kashmir. Every 5 February, they show solidarity with their Kashmiri brethren. School tableaux depict innocent Kashmiri girls singing folk songs and out of nowhere come Indian soldiers firing gunshots to arouse pathos in the audience.

The happenings of Kashmir Day always remained unclear - a national holiday which seemed just like any other off day. Kashmir Day would involve everything other than liberating Kashmir.

Waking up late, watching Indian films, and hanging out with friends was our contribution to the cause of Kashmir.

And then there were the poster boys of Kashmir freedom movement. Hafiz Saeed, Syed Salahuddin or Ahmed Ludhianvi from banned terrorist outfits taking out processions, apprising the Pakistanis of the Kashmir issue. But why would you preach to the converted already?

Now, nearly three decades later, Pakistan's Kashmir policy has borne no fruits for regular Pakistanis, other than polarising the society on the basis of jihad and instilling hate against India. The government of Pakistan expects the inflation-battling awaam to reunite for the Kashmir cause. But why?

Whether or not your heart bleeds for your own ethnic (Shias, Ahmadis, Christians, Hindus)

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With Article 370 gone, discrimination will end in J&K

Vimal Gupta, President, Raj Tilak Road Traders Association hailed the courageous and bold step regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that earlier people of Jammu and Kashmir were suffering a lot due to this controversial Act and their grievances remained unaddressed, but now after becoming UT, the people are hopeful that all necessary steps would be taken to mitigate their sufferings besides preserving Dogra culture and heritage. The Central Government should initiate necessary steps for preservation of Dogra culture so that coming generation can remain in touch with years-old culture and traditions. He said that people of Kashmir Valley are also satisfied with scrapping of Article 370. Gupta appealed to the Central Government to probe huge bungling of Kashmiri politicians, who are involved in scams worth crores besides booking them under law.



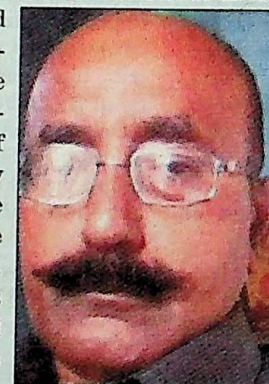
Appreciating the step taken by Narendra Modi Government, Mahul Rajput, a scholar hoped that the decision would prove to be a boon for youth of Jammu and Kashmir. He said people, whether youth, women or PoJK refugees will get their due share after abrogation of Article 370. He further said that Modi Government has taken a wise decision, which was the need of hour. "PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have created history. The historic decision is in the interest of nation. Understanding pain of people of Jammu, Modi fulfilled his promise. We are very much thankful to him for the historic decision," Rajput said.



Geeta Devi, a working woman, welcomed scrapping of Article 370 by the initiative taken by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah. She said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their due share in various spheres while Kashmiri politicians looted the wealth unabatedly. Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of new era and hoped that huge development will take place in J&K. Moreover, unemployed youth of Jammu will also get employment avenues after re-organisation of Jammu and Kashmir. She further appealed to the Prime Minister to take necessary measures for providing reservation to womenfolk, which has not been provided to them till date.



Jaseel Singh Slathia, President Mandli JK Surya Gram Vikas Samiti said that Article 370 was a cancerous disease of the State of Jammu and Kashmir which has successfully been operated upon by the Modi Government. This disease swallowed thousands of innocent youths and security personnel from all over the country during past three decades in particular. Abrogation of this Article is the real Shradhanjali to all those who sacrificed their lives in the State during this period. Not only the people of Jammu and Kashmir but the families of security personnel in the country feel relieved by the step taken by the Modi government. The country's economy remained worst affected because the special status siphoned the lion's share of our economy. JK being a union territory has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, he said. Slathia congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah for this bold step which has created history.



Raju Saluja, President of Hanuman Market Traders Association, Purani Mandi said, "We were waiting for this decision for the past 72 years. Modi has fulfilled the commitment made with people of country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular." He said that due to Article 370, the then Jammu and Kashmir State has not witnessed so much development and people were forced to run from pillar to post for employment, medical and educational facilities and other purposes but now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful that they usher in a new era. He further hoped that all modern facilities will be provided to residents of Jammu and Kashmir without any bias. Now, the newly formed Jammu Kashmir Union Territory will be brought under One Flag and One Constitution and there will be no place for anti-national elements, he added.



Surinder Kour, BJP leader wholeheartedly welcomed repealing of Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. She said that the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh got freedom after passing 72 years in slavery. She said people of J&K were struggling since long for abrogation of Article 370 and now after its repealing, entire Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the moment. Expressing gratitude towards Prime Minister and Home Minister, she asserted that all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of castes, creeds and religions are with the Prime Minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," she added.



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Isn't national television colluding with Kashmiri India bashers by providing them platform?

Presence of some chronic Pakistani apologists and so-called Kashmiri television panelists in New Delhi and Mumbai at a time history has been rewritten by abrogating Article 370 and bifurcating the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories is intriguing. It can't be just coincidence. If it is then nothing can be startling than this.

A day ahead of the historic move by the Centre, many of these camping panelists featured in a special discussion on Kashmir on a particular television channel. Who is paying for boarding, lodging and air-fares of 'now known faces on national television' who are otherwise unknown in their close vicinities back home? What is the connection? Nation wants to know.

As the Valley is shut in the wake of repeal of its special status, these panelists are at large, participating in the debates, spitting venom

against India and facilitating the anchors to raise their voices in defence of India. In the process the national cause is getting bruised and India bashers across the country in general and in Kashmir in particular becoming emboldened to put the nation, its security forces and its ethos on scanner.

Some of the national television channels have caused grievous dent to Indian image, ironically under the guise of being hyper-nationalists.

It can't be that Indian media houses are falling in the trap of anti-India elements. It seems to be deliberate as the Kashmiri panelists generally remain the same bunch of India haters whose mental frame is now known to every viewer. Before opening their mouths, the viewers can make out as to what they will be speaking. Despite that the television houses are feeling constrained and obliged

to have their view point alone, come what may. This is appalling. Somebody better decode the puzzle.

Whatever the motivation of panelists or the anchors, these television debates have set in a dangerous trend of airing anti-national views brazenly and shamelessly. Hitherto, the anti-national elements used

to think twice before giving vent to anti-India sentiments publicly but now they are emboldened to such an extent that they spit venom against the nation and the majority community without any inhibition, fear or remorse in highest of their pitch. They have tested waters. They know nobody will take note of their venom against the nation.



SPECIAL REPORT

Some of the acclaimed Indian television channels are turning more dangerous for the national interest than anti-national elements. Recent years and months have seen India bashers hammering India on the sensitive issues like Vande Matram, National Anthem, Special Status to J&K, AFSPA, hoisting of Tricolour in varsities,

so on and so forth. The scenario becomes totally different when it comes to debating terror related incidents in Kashmir or the latest situation unfolding after repeal of special status to the erstwhile state.

If glorification of terrorism in the Valley has been mainly due to a segment of Kashmir media, their cause, being espoused by some mainstream leaders, separatists and the so-called independent analysts, it is now being furthered by

the national media by giving space to venomous elements in their prime shows. Watch any debate on Kashmir, rabid communalists and anti-national elements can be seen indulging in worse type of diatribes against the nation. Spitting venom against India, Indian institutions and Indian security and armed forces remains core of their agenda. And, more they get drubbing from the anchors or co-panelists, more is their purpose served back in Kashmir. Even though such debates are pre-orchestrated or pre-planned, it is the national interest that becomes causality.

Lately, some unknown faces from the Valley are getting larger than life size projection on various television channels over various contentious issues and handling of the terror situation by armed forces. The news-channels take solace in getting a view point from Kashmir and browbeating the participants,

without realising how much disservice they are doing to the national interest. By roping in some B-grade clerics or socio-political activists besides so-called political analysts, the news channels are in fact making them heroes back in the Valley. Indian media becomes an engine for India bashing for them.

The question arises why should media houses stoop so low in highlighting the entities, who do not even enjoy the goodwill of those they claim to represent? What more can be expected from those who remain engaged in doing PR for Pakistan. These are the people, who unfortunately have got accreditation as top secessionist leaders from Kashmir despite being treated with contempt back home. Some of them carry the reputation of being blackmailers and petty criminals. Courtesy Indian media, they

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Valmiki community feels empowered with abrogation of Art 35A



Eklavya, a youth of Valmiki community expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and Home Minister for revoking Articles 370 and 35A, saying the decision would prove to be a boon for entire Valmiki community. The members of the community were leading a miserable life due to non-issuance of Permanent Resident Certificates, which was a major requirement for getting employment in government sector and admission in government-run educational institutions, he said.

"Earlier there were very less opportunities available for members of Valmiki community in Jammu and Kashmir, but with abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, we hope adequate opportunities in J&K like other residents. I also wanted to study law but due to lack of PRC, I was unable to get admission," he said. "Valmiki community has been serving J&K for about 70 years as no other community has rendered services towards the society like us. After abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, there is a new vigour among the youth of community, as now they can also pursue higher studies to achieve their goals," he maintained.



Mohit, another student belonging to the Valmiki community, said that revocation of provisions of Article 370 has opened new vistas for the members of the community, whose ancestors were brought from Punjab by J&K Government in 1957 but were denied 'citizenship' and other entailing rights.

"The members of the community are hopeful that their condition will improve in future by abrogation of

Article 370," he said, adding that August 5 will be remembered as a historic day.

He hoped that youth of Valmiki community would get various Government jobs and other rights in the newly-created Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

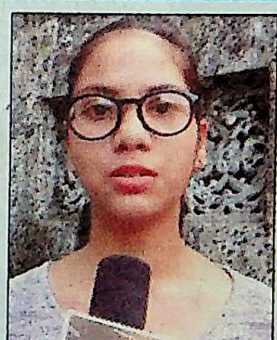
Having served the people of Jammu with a sense of commitment during the past over six decades, the Valmiki community is feeling elated over the decision of ending the special status, which had become a source of their deprivation. With landmark decision of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A they feel empowered.



While welcoming revoking of Article 370 by the BJP led Union Government, **Radhika Gill**, a student said that it was the main hurdle in the path of development for Valmiki community.

Radhika said that she confronted numerous problems in J&K, while struggling for her career due to non-availability of PRC. She expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi who fulfilled his promise and opened new avenues for the youth of the neglected community, so that they can also develop and prosper like other residents of J&K. "I hope that in coming times, this historic decision would prove to be a boon for entire community in general and youth in particular. The full credit of removing this anti-Valmiki article goes to BJP Government in general and the Prime Minister in particular," she maintained.

Ekta, a student belonging to Valmiki community, welcomed the timely decision with regard to abrogation of Article 370, as it would remove all obstacles being faced by youth of Valmiki community. She said



that before scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, the future of community youth was in dark as they were unable to get any employment or pursue higher education in J&K, due to non-issuance of PRCs in their favour.

"Now after abrogation of controversial Article 370, youth of the community can avail all benefits being provided by the Government of India for its citizens. I want to serve the country by becoming a Police Officer. My dream can now become a reality, only due the historic decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah," she added.

Gharu Bhatti, a member of Valmiki community, said that the entire community is celebrating scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A with great zeal. He said that the successive Governments, in J&K and the Centre, have deprived the community from citizenship rights besides other job opportunities and welfare schemes. He expressed resentment against Congress, which he said failed to do justice with Valmiki community and termed the party as Dalit-Virodhi.



Bhatti further said that after repealing of aforesaid Articles, the youth of community can continue their studies without any hindrance, with a hope to lead life with dignity in the newly established Union Territory.

He asserted that there is feeling of celebration among community members, as after spending 70 years in Jammu and Kashmir, they got the freedom, the credit of which goes to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah. "PM has fulfilled his commitment and made the slogan a reality that 'Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai'," he added.

Hailing the BJP led NDA government for abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, **Thomas**, a student belonging to the Valmiki community, expressed gratitude for giving freedom to members of Valmiki community from deprivation and discrimination. He said that due to Article 370, youth of the community suffered a lot as they had no future in the State except working as sanitary staff. He said that after repealing of Article 370, various opportunities are available for youth to ensure a bright



future, without leaving their homes and parents, just like other residents. He appealed to the PM Modi and Amit Shah to take all necessary efforts for introducing new schemes for welfare of community youth.

Abrogation of Article 370 rekindles hope among Gorkhas



Leela Jamwal, Chairperson of the Gorkha Samaj said that due to Article 370, the entire Gorkha community was deprived of their basic rights. "The Gorkha community got the voting rights but the members of this community were debarred from buying properties and pursuing higher education in Jammu and Kashmir", she said adding that the country got freedom in 1947 but the Gorkha community of J&K has become free from the clutches of

Article 370 only on August 5, 2019 by the revolutionary and farsighted decision taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "Despite facing discrimination and prejudice in J&K, the Gorkha community has played a significant role in the service of nation especially in the Indian Army", she asserted and thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving full rights to the community at par with other citizens of the India.



Nihar said that he was the victim of Article 370. "The scrapping of this Article has ended the 72-year-long spell of injustice," said Nihar, celebrating the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, which allowed only state subjects to buy and own land and take up government jobs.

He said now the Gorkha community has also been able to buy the property in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that the Article 370 should have been revoked much earlier as it has deprived various communities from the benefits of various welfare schemes launched by the Central Government for common masses.

Hithertofore feeling a sense of deprivation due to denial of state subject rights, the brave Gorkha community living in the city suburbs is elated over repeal of Articles 370 and 35A. They expect fair deal, secured future to their children and dignified life for the community as a whole.



Bassi Gurung has wholeheartedly welcomed the abrogation of Article 370, terming it as main hurdle in ensuring bright future of their wards. She said that the community members are staying in Jammu and Kashmir before 1947. She asserted that the youth of Gorkha community are well

educated but due to denial of Permanent Resident Certificates, they have not been eligible to get the state government jobs and other benefits of government welfare schemes.

"Earlier, our wards had no option but to go to the metro cities for employment but after J&K becoming a Union Territory, we are happy and contented about the future of our youth," she said and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the Articles 370 and 35A and assured whole-hearted support to the BJP in its stride to ensure welfare of people of this country.

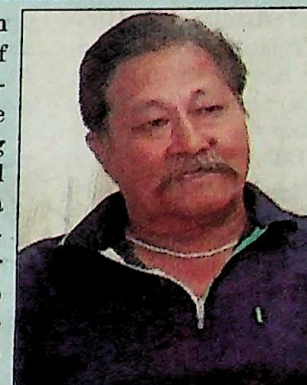
Laxmi Rana

said, "It is like a dream come true for us. We thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for providing us and our children an opportunity to prosper as a community."

"Despite living in Jammu for years together, the Gorkha community was deprived of various rights including right to vote, right to higher education, right to get state scholarships, right to get reservation in state jobs," she said and added, "I salute Modi for his political will to take such a bold and courageous decision to end the discriminatory laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir," she added.



Arun Kumar Chettri, Vice Chairman of the Gorkha Samaj said repealing of Articles 370 and 35A is being considered as harbinger of hope and justice among the Gorkha community residing in Jammu and Kashmir. He said Article 370 has grinded the Gorkha community by depriving it from enjoying rights which are extended to other citizens of the nation. He said due to this anti-Gorkha Article, most of the youth of Gorkha community were forced to work in private establishments, shops and small eateries. "In Jammu and Kashmir, there was no future for Gorkhas and the community lagged behind others", he said, adding that for the past 70 years we are living like slaves due to lack of facilities. He said only due to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah we will now get equal opportunities.



Sunder said that the Gorkha community has faced a lot of problems due to the Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the successive governments in the State have not shown its serious concern towards the hardships being faced by the members of Gorkha community. He said that the Gorkha community had also taken up the matter with Sheikh Abdullah regarding denial of rights to Gorkha community but to no avail.

He said that the whole community is welcoming the lifting of Articles 370 and 35A and celebrating this moment with great enthusiasm. He said now the community is eligible to buy property and pursue higher studies in Jammu and Kashmir.

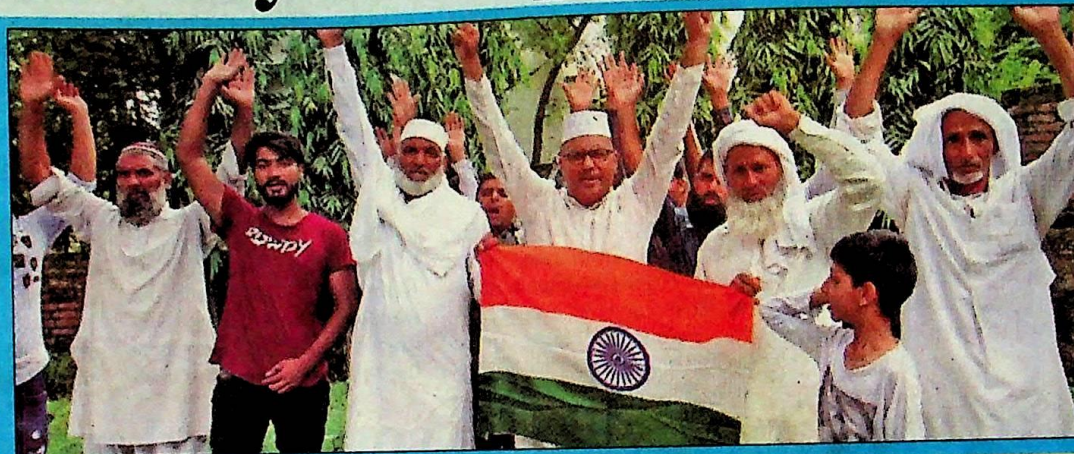


Jammu Muslims see ray of hope after repeal of Art 370

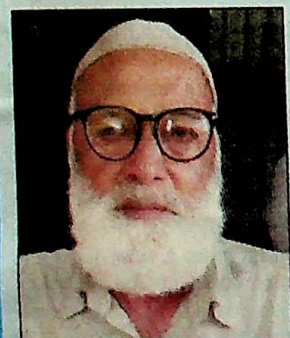


Ghulam Ali, an engineer by profession, welcomed abrogation of Article 370, saying the amendments made by the successive governments in this provision were only meant for satiating the interests of political class rather than mitigating the problems of common people including Gujjars, Bakarwals and members of Other Backward Classes. He termed Kashmiri politicians as hypocrites, claiming they speak one language when in Delhi and a totally different while in the Valley, hence fooling the people.

"In Kashmir they hold Delhi responsible for the plight of people in Kashmir", he said and pointed out that wards of several Kashmiri political leaders are studying abroad while the children of common people hailing from Valley are being misguided and denied basic rights. Ghulam Ali asserted, "Come what may, we were Indians, we are Indians and we shall remain Indians".



Jammu Muslims are elated over the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. They exude confidence that this move will open up new vistas of opportunities for them, as till date they were deprived of various rights and benefits provided by the Government. They further hoped that the significant decision taken by Union Government will open new horizons for their younger generations, which were mere a dream for them till date.



Mohammad Ali, an elderly, said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing hardships due to this controversial Article for the past 70 years. He said that the Government of India took a wise decision by scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A. He hoped that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will get employment and soon a new era of development will herald in the newly announced Union Territory. "I personally believe that the government has taken a bold decision which will be beneficial for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding that the so-called mainstream politicians and separatists have misled the youth and after abrogating the Article 370, new avenues will be available for them.



Sarpanch Choudhary Bashir Ahmed appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for repealing the Articles 370 and 35A. He said the previous governments of National Conference and PDP have betrayed common masses. He mentioned that his house is just one kilometer away from the residence of former Chief Minister and President National Conference and till date the road has not been constructed despite raising the issue many times with the authorities concerned. He also mentioned that the Gujjar Bakarwal community also belonged to India and residing in Jammu and Kashmir for the last more than 200 years. He asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to celebrate the scrapping of aforesaid Articles and maintain communal harmony and brotherhood at all costs.



by the Modi government for the welfare of people of the country.

Abdul Satar said, "We are with our Prime Minister Narendra Modi who took a very bold and courageous decision by repealing the Articles 370 and 35A." He mentioned that the successive governments of Jammu and Kashmir did nothing for the welfare of Backward Classes' community. He said that Modi is the first Prime Minister, who has shown concern towards the welfare of neglected community.

He said that the barrier of Article 370 has been removed which had emotionally and psychologically separated Jammu and Kashmir from the country. He said that now the opportunities are available for them at par with the country. He appealed to the youth to come forward and take benefits of the schemes launched

Mohammad Yaqoob

said that Gujjar community has wholeheartedly welcomed the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. He asserted that Gujjar community has lived a miserable life in Jammu and Kashmir and were not at all benefited from the aforesaid Articles of the Constitution. He expressed the hope that the educated youth of Gujjar Bakarwal community would be benefitted after the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the whole community is hopeful that the multi-national companies will establish their offices in Jammu which will help tackling joblessness in the region. He said that the successive governments have failed in combating the menace of corruption and unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.



Mohammad Ashraf

said that the revocation of Article 370 has given hope to the community members, who were deprived of their entailing rights. "Now that Jammu and Kashmir has no special status, the concept of State Subject itself has gone. It will make all Indians and all permanent J&K residents equal in all respects," Ashraf said, hoping that people like him too will soon be declared entitled to get government jobs and other rights in the newly-created Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "We are Indians and the whole community has welcomed the step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah."



With Congress around, no need of enemies like Pakistan

Pakistan need not put extra efforts to incite passions and malign India so long Sonia-Rajiv Gandhi's Congress and Pak apologists in this country are around. They are capable enough to push forward the Pakistan agenda of giving thousand cuts to India. The only difference is that Islamabad is sadistically watching and cheering how Congress and company is accomplishing their mission.

Post Article 370 revocation, the nation is witnessing with shock, disgust and disbelief how the Congress is humiliating and cornering the nation for love of Pakistan. Starting from the former President Rahul Gandhi to motor-mouth Mani Shankar, all the loose Congress cannons are firing shots which Pakistan is using at the international forums to hammer India through Indians. The new Congress Pre-Sonia

Gandhi, who is still holding and hiding her tears for the slain Batla House terrorists, is taking vicarious pleasure in the 'Khangress juveniles' nailing the nation, brazenly and shamelessly. Shame, self-respect and national pride is out of bound for the Congress culture.

In his belated reaction to the measures in Kashmir, Rahul Gandhi referred to some unheard of 'violence', which nobody had reported having occurred anywhere. Could it be to provoke Kashmiris to indulge in violence and mayhem? Just a food for thought for the Nehru-Gandhi seion.

See the flight of imagination of a top leader-former Home Minister of India's secular political party P. Chidambaram, who said the BJP would not have 'snatched away' the special status, had Jammu and Kashmir been a Hindu-dominated state.

The compatriots would be within their rights to wonder how such a person could have been 'secular' during his tenures as home and finance minister.

As the Prime Minister was integrating Kashmir with rest of the country braving multiple challenges, the Congress loose cannon Digvijay Singh gave a sermon of dealing with the situation thoughtfully, lest "Kashmir will slip out of our hands".

As if this was not enough, the motor-mouth Congressman Mani Shankar Ayer, famous for seeking the help of Pakis on their land to help 'India get rid of Narendra Modi', gave a new dimension to the reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir and abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A. He is reported to

have claimed that the Prime Minister and Home Minister have extinguished the rights of the Kashmiris by creating 'a new Palestine on the northern borders'.

What is bothering the Congress? For them secularism means appeasement of minorities and condemnation of majority community, human rights



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means concessions to separatists and terrorists and maligning of Indian security forces; and democracy means promoting vote bank of minorities and castigating majority vie-point as fascism.

There appears to be a method in Congress madness as far as national interest is concerned. Remember the infamous meeting between Rahul Gandhi and Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, which his party kept

denying but later admitted brazenly.

The controversy erupted during Chinese incursions in Doklam, Ladakh and in the midst of Kashmiri separatists making an appeal to the Dragon to help them seek 'Azadi'. The nation has not forgotten the bizarre demands of the Congress in seeking proof of surgical strikes by the Indian Army in PoK on September 29, 2016 and air-strikes in Balakot inside Pakistan on February 26 this year. The party openly took the side of Pakistan, which has been aggressor of four wars and the ongoing proxy war of terrorism.

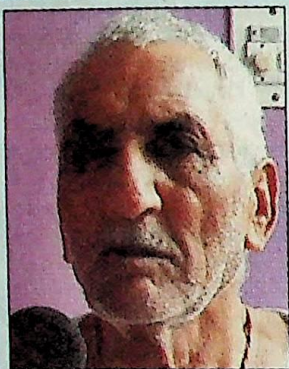
The co-relation between debate over Article 370 in Rajya Sabha and the latest series of statements by the Congress leaders have exposed the party which is out and out for Pakistan. The Congress Leader

of Opposition in Lok Sabha first talked about UN role in Kashmir and later in a desperate bid termed the Valley as a concentration camp. In the Rajya Sabha, Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad kept giving figures about Muslim population in Pir Panchal and the so-called Chenab Valley to bring home the point that J&K was a Muslim dominated state. Later, he ended up by describing those as 'paid supporters' who were seen on video footage having lunch with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

In the backdrop of the Congress role during and before the repeal of Article 370, the people of India have reconciled with the fact that there is no need of enemies like Pakistan and separatists when the 'Khangress well-wishers' are around.

13-8-19

Abrogation of Article 370: Dream come true for WPRs



Nitu Ram, an octogenarian, settled in this part of the country after the partition in 1947, appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their bold and courageous decision of scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. Referring to the plight of West Pakistan refugees, who despite living in the State for the past more than 70 years are still deprived of their basic rights, he said that they have faced many problems due to non-issuance of Permanent Resident

Certificates. He said the successive governments have not shown any concern towards the hardships being faced by the refugees.

"Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A was need of the hour for the security of nation and also for the safety of the peace loving people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.



While hailing the decision regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, **Sunita Devi** asserted that the tag of refugees has been finally removed. "We are eligible to get the benefits of various schemes launched by the Central Government for the welfare of compatriots," she said, adding that this act has generated equality among people of the nation as a whole with one flag and one constitution. "It would bring normalcy, peace and progress", she said and

thanked the Union Government for this bold and revolutionary decision that has opened up gates of development and progress for the West Pakistani refugees in J&K.

Repeal of Article 370 is like a dream come true for West Pakistan Refugees, who have been deprived of their rights for over seven decades and subjected to humiliation and deprivation. Now they feel empowered with dawn of real independence heralding. The sense of dejection has been taken over by hope and promise of new era.



Girdhari Lal said that the West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) were being discriminated since independence. "Now after the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, we have gained independence in true sense. Due to aforesaid articles, the wards of refugees had faced many problems. They were denied admissions in the higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir due to lack of State Subjects", he said.

"I am working as a labourer and I was afraid that my children would also meet the same fate but now I am sure that after revocation of Article 370 they would not have to work as manual-labourers due to lack of State Subjects," he said.

"We salute Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his political

will to take such a bold and courageous decision to end the discriminatory laws of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, adding "Now I am fearless and hope that my children will also be eligible to get the right of education and shape their career in their home-town."

Krishan Lal, an ex-serviceman, said that the West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) had waited for seven decades to see the light of day without this contentious Article. He said that the Modi government has ensured justice to WPRs, which till date has been tagged as the most neglected community of the State as it was deprived of even voting rights. By revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, the Central Government has given a new life to WPRs, who will now be able to live with honour and dignity. He said that earlier there was no future for children of refugee community but after scrapping of Article 370, they are now empowered and feeling elated. "We would extend full support to the Union Government for every initiative taken for development of Jammu and Kashmir," Krishan added.



Manisha, a student, welcomed the historical decision of Modi Government on abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as it was the need of the hour for peace and equitable development of Jammu and Kashmir. She said that many students belonging to WPR community have faced discrimination in their schools due to non-availability of State Subjects. She expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah who showed the unprecedented political courage and vision to revoke the aforesaid anti-refugees articles by taking bold and historical decisions. "It will also bring the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir at par with the women of rest of the country as it has also rendered the discriminatory provision defunct, which used to deny them property rights in case of marriage to anyone from outside the state," she added.



Abrogation of Article 370 brings hope, promise for Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh



Welcoming repealing of Articles 370 and 35A by the Union Government in J&K, **Rahul Bhatia, an Accountant** by profession thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu people, who always faced discrimination by successive Governments in every sector. "Be it education, medicare, employment, tourism or basic development, Jammu faced huge discrimination since independence in every sector. The lion's share of every development scheme or project was diverted to the Valley and Jammu received only a meager part, just for namesake. With abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of J&K into two Union Territories, I hope that the decades-old discrimination with Jammu will end and the region will also develop at par with other States of the country," he asserted. He further said that due to Article 370, the residents of J&K were deprived of various rights available for them as citizens of India, but with removal of the controversial article, people can enjoy all rights like other citizens. Earlier, various communities in State were forced to lead a miserable life due to lack of citizenship rights in J&K due to Article 370, but its abrogation would transform their lives to a great extent, he maintained.



Rajesh Gupta, a shopkeeper appreciated efforts of PM Modi and Amit Shah for their bold and courageous decision, which gave freedom to people of Jammu from Kashmir-centric policies of Kashmiri politicians. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," Gupta added. "Modi and Shah have created a history which will be remembered for times to come. Such step will provide a bright future to students of Jammu as well as Kashmir," he added. Gupta asserted that the Central Government should initiate necessary steps for preservation of Dogra culture, so that coming generations can remain in touch with years-old culture and traditions.

Finally, Jammu and Kashmir has overtaken the nightmarish era of subjugation and deprivation of a particular segment of population, especially in Jammu and Ladakh. The landmark decision of the BJP led NDA government has paved way for satiating political, developmental and psychological aspirations of the people, who suffered abject and neglect during over seven decades.



Ajay Vaid, BJP leader said that people of Jammu and Kashmir are celebrating abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. He said that entire country has witnessed huge development since independence but people in J&K were deprived of the same due to the controversial article. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their due-share in various spheres while Kashmiri politicians looted the wealth unabatedly. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as huge development will take place in J&K", said Vaid, adding that unemployed youth of Jammu will also get employment avenues after re-organisation of the erstwhile state. He urged the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to resolve unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. He further hoped that statehood would be restored to Jammu and Kashmir soon after normalcy is restored in J&K.



Gaurav Dubey, a youth leader said that scrapping of Article 370 was a big slap on Kashmiri politicians, who had misguided Kashmiris for their personal motives. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions. Now people of Ladakh would also get their due share, which they deserve", said Dubey, urging people of Jammu and Kashmir to support BJP led Government at the Centre. He further mentioned that all married women of Jammu and Kashmir would also get their due share, which they were denied earlier. JK being a union territory has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, he hoped.



Parmodh Ghai said that the dynasty rule in Jammu and Kashmir and its special status in the constitution remained a big hurdle in development of the State, particularly Displaced Persons of 1947 from Pakistan occupied Kashmir suffered hugely for the past 72 years. "The successive governments did not project their sufferings to the Central Government for relief and compensation and three generations struggled for the same. The compensation in all cases had to be released by the Centre on basis of projection and recommendation of State Government, which it failed. It was Modi Government which unilaterally sanctioned Rs 2,000 crore as a token of relief to these DPs in 2016, and asked the State to provide complete details for further necessary action. In case of Refugees from West Pakistan, the dynasty Governments flatly refused their claims, but with abrogation of these controversial articles, the West Pakistan Refugees and DPs of 1947 are now hoping for redressal of their grievances by the Union Government," he said.

Kashmir Mainstream: Between the devil and the deep sea

5th August 2019-ten days ahead of 15th August when India won freedom 72 years ago- emerges as yet another landmark day for Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, the erstwhile state of Maharaja Hari Singh, which is traversing into the history as two Union Territories in the Domain of India it acceded to in 1947.

This Independence Day is quite different in this part of the country on several counts. Everything is changed. While many in Jammu and Ladakh and some in Kashmir are rejoicing over the course correction of history and total integration with India, a section of the population is in a state of trauma-- the most predominant among the latter being the Valley based mainstream, a term never defined but ever endeared by visionless politicians in New Delhi for decades. Obviously so, because of the vote bank politics which promoted and sustained political entities comprising National

Conference, Peoples Democratic Party, Peoples Conference and the other lesser grown outfits.

The abrogation of Article 370 and reorganization of the erstwhile state has exploded many myths and put the Kashmir politics in disarray. The so-called mainstream, which practiced, dominated and enjoyed power politics by overtly



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pretending to be nationalists but kept subscribing to separatist ideology covertly, is in quandary. They have become victims of their own misdoings and misdeeds because they molded themselves to the culture of running with hare and hunting with hounds. They never tried to learn lessons from history.

Till the onset of terrorism, Kashmir politics has revolved round Sheikh

Abdullah, the towering political entity of the sub-continent. A politician of substance and high acumen, he understood the nuances of politics that is what led to Indira-Sheikh Accord of 1975. A person perceived to have negotiated the accord on his terms and conditions accepted to be a chief minister despite having remained prime minister till his ouster and arrest in 1953. It is not that Sheikh could not have pressed his conditions but he was wise enough to appreciate the realities. He had summed up the situation aptly by observing that 'needles of clock cannot be reversed'.

Sheikh Abdullah's climb down from his stated stand should have been lesson for political class of Kashmir. The man in the hearts of his people had rechristened Muslim Conference into National Conference because circumstances demanded this at that point of the time. National Conference was converted into Plebiscite

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Abrogation of Article 370 a befitting tribute to those who stood for national integration



Sat Sharma, former minister and senior BJP leader, said that whole country in general and people of Jammu and Kashmir in particular are celebrating the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the people of country irrespective of caste, colour and creed have appreciated the move of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He said, "Scrapping of Article 370 was the long pending

demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir but no government in the past had shown the courage to remove it." He asserted that with the removal of Article 370, BJP has fulfilled its commitment with the people of country. He hoped that the removal of this contentious Article will prove beneficial to youth of Jammu.



Jasmer Singh, a social activist said that move to abrogate Article 370 with its baby 35A, granting special status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, needed an extra ordinary courage for any Prime Minister. He said, "The impact of this Article had gone deep into the blood of generations during these seven decades and the same was proving detrimental

for the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly supported by HM Amit Shah, took a yeomen's step in this direction and after detailed deliberations with the legal think tanks, clinched the issue in one go and silenced all speculations and plans which were being chalked out within the country and outside for weakening the nation. The dream of complete integration of the country has become a reality, he added.

The repealing of Article 370 along with Art-35A has fulfilled the most cherished desire of people of J&K in general and Jammu region in particular. Time and again, the issue was used for political motives by the parties but none dared to resolve it, leaving people to suffer. Political stewards like Syama Prasad Mukherjee and many others devoted their entire lives for the cause and even gave the supreme sacrifices. At last, the controversial Article was abrogated paving way for complete integration of the State of J&K with the Union of India.



Veenu Khanna, BJP J&K Secretary appreciated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for repealing Articles 370 and 35A. She said that Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Balraj Madhok and

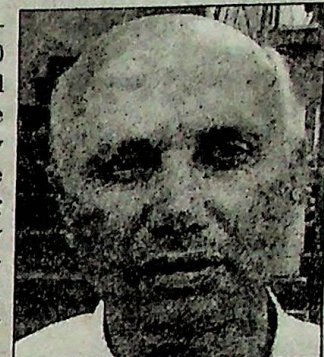
Prem Nath Dogra had sacrificed their lives for abrogation of Article 370 to integrate J&K fully with India. She said repeal of Article 370 will be real tribute to these great leaders, who stood for total integration of J&K with India and sacrificed their lives. "The people of J&K assure full support to the Central Government headed by Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking the historic decision. They also expressed gratitude towards entire NDA Government for fulfilling the dream of Jana Sangh Founder, Syama Prasad Mukherjee and Bajraj Madhok," she added.

Sanjeev Sharma, a resident of Jammu, hailed the NDA Government for removing the Article 370. He welcomed the courageous step taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah which was very essential in the interest of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as the entire country.

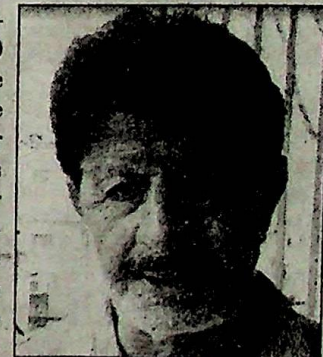


"Everyone should come to fore and welcome and support this move, which has been taken for the welfare of J&K people. The Article 370 was responsible for under development of the State, including unemployment, corruption and mis-governance. Moreover, due to this controversial Article, people of the Jammu and Kashmir have suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination with them. Some politicians, termed this provision as a bridge between J&K and India, but in reality, it increased distance between people of the State and the country", he maintained.

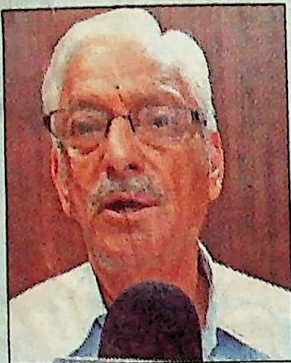
Corporator Rajinder Sharma welcomed the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and said that these moves will open new vistas of opportunities in the employment sector besides paving way for multinational companies in the newly carved out UTs and giving employment to the youth especially those living in Jammu. "Like other parts of the country, Jammu and Kashmir has now got an opportunity to move towards development and prosperity", he said while asserting that repeal of Article 370 was a long pending demand of nationalist people of J&K. He said the issue was always used by Kashmir based political parties just for vote bank politics, without caring for the aspirations of people. "The abrogation of Article 370 will definitely bring a huge change in Jammu and Kashmir as far as development is concerned", he added.



Ved Raj Bali, a PoJK refugee, welcomed the abolishment of Article 370 by the BJP led Government at the Centre. He said that the whole refugee community, which was so far denied the Jammu and Kashmir's citizenship, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the historic decision of revoking provisions of the Article 370. He said that the refugee community was thankful to the Prime Minister for this bold and historic decision, which freed the community from the chains of slavery. All rights including the vote to elect our representatives in the Assembly were denied to us, our educated youths are jobless, he said and lauded the BJP for ending "injustice with the community". He also appealed to the Prime Minister to solve their other issues at the earliest.



Repeal of Article 370 will open window of opportunities for J&K youth



Inderjit Khajuria, Chairman All Jammu Hotels Lodges Association, said that India got freedom in 1947 but J&K has actually got freedom on August 5, 2019 from Kashmir-centric politicians. He said that future of Jammu people is bright after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. Now the people of Jammu are hoping that many multi-national companies will establish their units in Jammu and Kashmir because the owners of MNCs will get ownership rights. Moreover, people of J&K will now get benefits of all central government policies at par with other parts of the country, said Khajuria, adding that now well-educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir will get employment here only. Now, they need not to go to the other States for earning their livelihood due to lack of employment avenues, he asserted. With lifting of these provisions, Jammu will soon become an independent tourist destination, he hoped.



Jemini Sharma, businessman said that people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh welcomed removal of Articles 370 and 35A. He termed these Articles as a political gimmick of Kashmiri politicians, who used them only for personal motives. He said that removal of Articles 370 and 35A would stop black-mailing by Kashmiri politicians. He said common people of both the regions viz Jammu and Kashmir are always with the Tricolour and never raised Pakistani and ISIS flags. Due to these controversial articles, business, infrastructure development, health and tourism has suffered a lot in J&K, he added. Sharma further said that Jammu and Ladakh always remained on back-foot in tourism sector. The women also suffered a lot due to these Articles, he maintained. Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister and Home Minister for scrapping these Articles of the Constitution, he hoped that the upcoming J&K Investor's Summit 2019 will open doors of new vistas for the people.



Sandeep Singh, social activist expressed gratitude to the Government of India for ending more than 72 years rule of Kashmiri-centric politicians in Jammu region by repealing Articles 370 and 35A. He said that Prime Minister has fulfilled the commitment made with people of the country in general and J&K in particular. He emphasized that PM Modi has showed his 56-inch chest to the anti-national elements and enemies of the country. He urged the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah to make provisions that employment in Jammu and Kashmir is made available only to youth of J&K as is in vogue in Himachal Pradesh and several other states.



Nischint Sawhney, trader, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for doing a remarkable job by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He said due to rampant corruption in J&K, people have suffered a lot since Independence. People have to face ordeal and undue harassment due to criminal apathy of government officials to get Permanent Resident Certificates, which was a domicile proof of residents. "Earlier in Jammu and Kashmir, there was no future of youth," he said, adding that for the past 70 years, people were living like slaves due to dynasty rule of Abdullahs and Muftis. Only due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, people of Jammu and Kashmir would now get equal opportunities, he maintained.



Sunita Gupta, working woman, welcomed scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A by the BJP Government. She said that with repealing of these Articles, J&K youth will not leave their hometowns in search of livelihood. She added that PM Modi has fulfilled the dream of Jammu people by repealing this controversial Article. Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister and Home Minister, she asserted that all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed and religion are with the Prime Minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," she added.



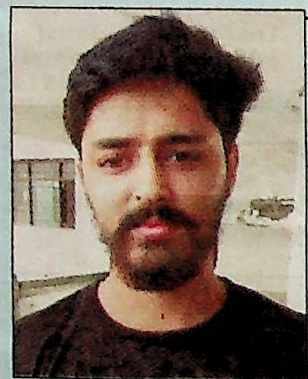
Brij Mehra, senior citizen termed repealing of Articles 370 and 35A a good step for people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said this will pave way for benefits to various sections of society including Gorkha, Valimiki community and refugees living in Jammu and Kashmir. Modi Government has added one more feather in his cap by revoking aforesaid Articles and created a history, which will be remembered for a long time, he added. Mehra asserted that due to Article 370, entire population of Jammu and Kashmir was deprived of basic rights. Mehra hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing full rights to the people of J and K at par with other citizens of India.

Revocation of Art 370 game-changer for J&K youth



Deepak Gupta, a University scholar, hailed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir, observing that the youth of Jammu region suffered a lot due to these provisions while only two prominent families of Abdullahs and Muftis were the major beneficiaries. He said that repealing of these articles was the need of hour, as people of Jammu region were main victim of Kashmiri politicians. He said that people of Jammu will be the major beneficiaries in the long

run. He further said that BJP-led Government at the Centre is working for welfare of J&K people, especially the youth, who are committed to play their role in nation building.



Abhishek said that due to Article 370, the residents of J&K were deprived of various rights available for them as the citizens of India. With removal of these controversial articles, people will now enjoy all rights available to the compatriots across the country. He said that women were most affected due to Article 35A. He mentioned that the Central Government did a good job by removing these articles, due to which all central laws under the Indian Penal Code will be directly implemented

in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that Kashmiri politicians looted the wealth of J&K as there was no accountability on utilisation of funds received from the Centre. He said that now after J&K becoming Union Territory, the funds would be utilised adequately and a new era of development would be witnessed across Jammu and Kashmir.

The historic decision with regard to revocation of Article 370 and re-organisation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh is set to be game-changer for the people, especially the youth, who are grappling with unemployment due to absence of heavy industries and big business houses. The people feel a sense of change in the overall atmosphere with the hope of opportunities knocking their doors.



Muskan Kalsotra, student of Government Women College Gandhi Nagar Jammu said, "The decision regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will be an advantage and game changer for people of J&K in general and youth in particular." She asserted that earlier, most of the youth had to move towards metro-cities or other big cities for getting career-oriented opportunities. Now after scrapping of the Article 370, youth would reap benefits of various schemes of centrally sponsored schemes besides receiving employment opportunities of Central Government in J&K at par with rest of the country, she said. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of J&K is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand and removing the discrimination being faced by people of Jammu region for last seven decades," she added.

Abhinav, a student of a professional college, hailed the bold and courageous decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to abrogate Article 370, which ended the 'Two flags and constitutions' theory within one nation. He said that the decision would prove to be a boon for youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Not only the people of the reorganized state but the families of security personnel across the country are feeling relieved by the significant step taken by Modi government, he added.

He further mentioned that the Prime Minister is seriously concerned about people of J&K. The upcoming J&K Investor's Summit will bring jobs and new opportunities for youth. J&K, now a Union Territory, definitely has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, he hoped.



Sunil Kumar a resident of Jammu said that development had come to a grinding halt in Jammu and Kashmir due to Article 370.

He mentioned that people of Jammu and Kashmir have full faith in policies of Modi Government, which did a remarkable job by repealing Articles 370 and 35A, thereby giving freedom to the people from slavery of Kashmiri politicians. He termed revoking of these articles as a good sign for students of J&K and hoped that now, various multinational-companies would set-up their units in Jammu and Kashmir, thus tackling unemployment. He said the youth suffered a lot due to these articles, which were brazenly misused by the politicians of Valley for their personal motives.



No major incident in Kashmir, life returning to normal: Govt

► **Middle level schools to reopen on Wednesday**

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: There has been no major incident of law and order violation in Kashmir Valley and life is slowly returning to normal, top Jammu and Kashmir administration officials said on Monday.

Syed Sehrish Asgar, Director of Information and Public Relations of Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters here that in the Jammu region, no law and order violation has been reported.

Schools reopened in Kashmir and teachers reported to work as restric-

Most of educational institutions reopen in Jammu's border districts

JAMMU: Most of educational institutions in five sensitive border districts of Jammu reopened after a fortnight on Monday with "full attendance" as authorities lifted curbs in large parts of the region, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir was placed under an unprecedented security cover and curfew-like restrictions on August 4, a day before the Centre revoked the state's special status under Article 370 and bifurcated it into two Union Territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Educational institutions reopened in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and Chenab Valley districts of Ramban, Doda and parts of Kishtwar, the officials said.

The overall security situation remained peaceful throughout the region and educational institutions saw "full attendance", they said. Earlier on August 10, the educational institutions in five other districts of the region

tions were eased further, but not many students turned up.

She said that after the re-opening of primary schools, it has decided to re-open all middle level schools across Kashmir valley from Wednesday.

"Some rumours were spread yesterday by certain elements. The government urges people not to believe in any kind of rumour-mongering by vested interests," she said.

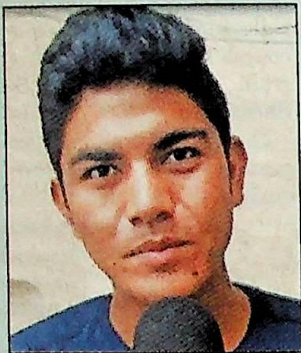
"There has been no major law and order situation

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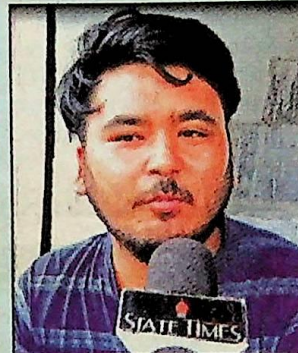
Jubilant Ladakh looks for a great future, huge opportunities



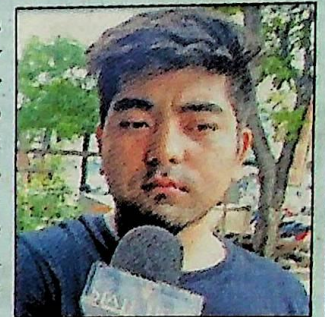
Nawang Sonam said that the long pending demand of the Ladakh people has been fulfilled with the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. He said it's like a dream come true for Ladakhi people. He said that the Ladakhi people will be benefitted by this move of the Narendra Modi led NDA Government. He said earlier the funds allocated for Ladakh were misused by the successive State governments but after creation of Ladakh Union Territory, there will be 100 per cent utilisation of central funds for ensuring development of the region. He said that Ladakh being the favourite tourists' destination will see enormous development in the coming time. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Ladakhis, who always faced discrimination by successive State governments.



Zigmith Padma welcomed the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and congratulated the people of Ladakh for getting the Union Territory status. She said that 80 per cent of Ladakhi youth including girls are studying outside the Ladakh due to lack of education and job opportunities in the region thus facing severe hardships. She hoped that after acquiring the Union Territory status, the youth of Ladakh will not have to move out as new universities and colleges will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions. Now people of Ladakh would also get their due share, which they deserve," Padma added.



Thargyal appreciated the move of removing the Articles 370 and 35A and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for granting Union Territory to Ladakh. He said PM Modi has invoked a new hope among the people of Ladakh by abrogating these controversial Articles from the Constitution. He said that present BJP government has in right perspective understood the feelings of the people of Ladakh which the earlier dispensations never bothered to consider. He also said that the successive governments never projected the sufferings of the people of this mountainous region before the Central Government thus forcing people to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities. He hoped that Ladakhi people will now witness unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost. "Modi and Shah have created a history which will be remembered for times to come. Such step will provide a bright future to students of Ladakh," he added.



Stanzin Lachok, Vice President All Ladakh Students Association, Jammu, said that Ladakhis were not happy with the policies of Kashmir-centric governments and never wanted to stay with Kashmir. He stated that 73 years ago All Ladakh Buddhist Association had launched an agitation demanding Union Territory status for Ladakh. He said that entire Ladakh is happy with the decision of the BJP government on granting UT status. Expressing contentment, he said that removal of the contentious Articles 370 and 35A will pave way for the people of this region to enjoy all the rights which they were denied earlier.



Gurmet, Joint Secretary Ladakh Students Association, hailed the decision of BJP led government at the Centre for abrogating the Articles 370 and 35A from the J&K. He said that the demand of UT was pending for the last 70 years which has been fulfilled only after the bold and courageous decision of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He said that dearth of educational institutions in Ladakh forced local youth to migrate to the other parts of the country for pursuing studies thereby making education a costly affair. "After getting Union Territory status, the Ladakhis will save their hard-earned money and surely the government will come up with more policies and welfare schemes to facilitate people of Ladakh", he maintained.

21-8-19

• Wednesday • August 21, 2019

STATE TIMES 3

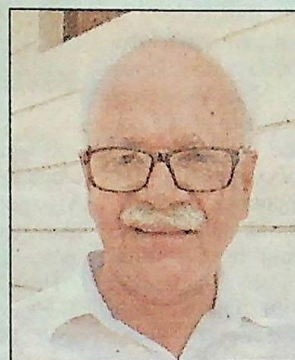
Abrogation of Article 370 boon for youth in J&K, Ladakh



Chandan Dutta, social activist welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He appreciated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for this move and hoped that this landmark decision will break the backbone of terrorists and shall lead to peace and prosperity in the region. He asserted that earlier, the future of J&K's youth was bleak but after this historic move of Modi-led BJP Government at the Centre a new hope has kindled among the youngsters that they shall now have bright prospects in the J&K and Ladakh as well. He also lambasted the successive governments for depriving the West Pakistani Refugees of their voting and other rights. He also welcomed the upcoming J&K Investors' Summit which is seen as a major step in giving a boost to economy of the region besides providing ample opportunities to youth facing joblessness for the past over 70 years.

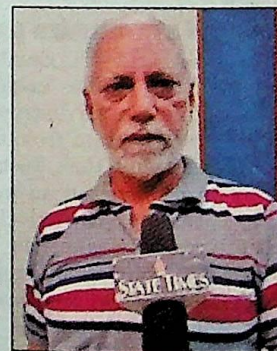


Darshan Kumar Sharma said that the people of Jammu region have been suffering due to the Kashmir-centric policies of successive governments for the last seven decades. He said nobody showed his concern towards the Jammu region. He held the Kashmiri politicians as well as the separatists responsible for the present situation. He asked the Modi government to hold probe against the Kashmiri leaders for looting the wealth as well as the funds allotted for the development of J&K. "These leaders always worked for their own benefits besides enjoying power corridors, without thinking for welfare of common people. Scrapping of Article 370 was long due but no successive Government displayed the courage to remove it," he said, appreciating the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for this bold initiative. He also said that now the daughters of J&K will get their due share.

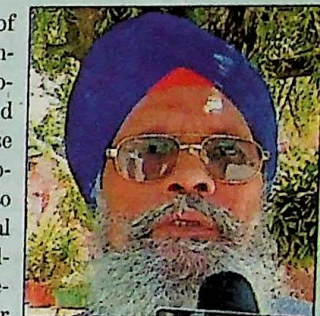


Rajneeh, a senior citizen said Modi government did a tremendous job by scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A. He said earlier children of J&K were deprived of various schemes and policies of Central Government. He said that after scrapping of this controversial article the new era of development will be seen in Jammu. He said that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to other regions by the successive governments. He appealed to the BJP Government to probe bungling and misappropriations committed by Kashmiri politicians through scams and punish them under law. He also hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. He felt that abrogation of aforesaid Article is rising of 'New Jammu and Kashmir', where everyone can enjoy his rights without any fear or discrimination.

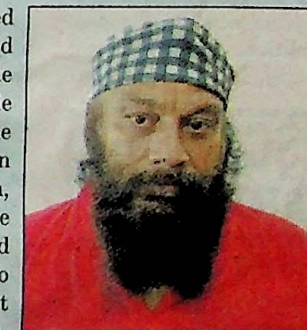
Isheya Kumar Anand, a resident of Rehari said that the former governments failed to revoke this anti-Jammu Article. He hailed the courageous and bold step of Prime Minister regarding the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the last more than seventy years were suffering a lot due to this controversial Articles and their grievances remained unaddressed, but now after becoming a UT, the people are hopeful that all necessary steps would be taken to mitigate their sufferings besides preserving Dogra Culture and heritage. He asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grass roots level. He said that the initiative taken by the Prime Minister for repealing these articles will be remembered for a long time.



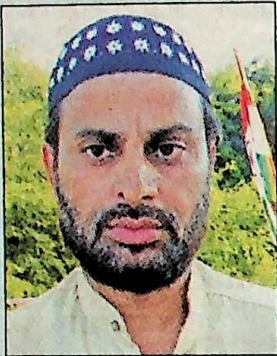
Amarjit Singh, a resident of Jammu appreciated the step taken by Narendra Modi led Government at the Centre and hoped that the decision would prove to be a boon for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He termed that the Article 370 was responsible for numerous ills in the State, including unemployment, corruption, mis-governance and many others. Moreover, due to Article 35A, people of the State in general and women in particular suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination with them, he said adding that Modi Government has taken a wise decision, which was the need of hour. "PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have created history. The historic decision is in the interest of nation. Understanding pain of people of Jammu, Modi fulfilled his promise. We are very much thankful to him for the historic decision," Singh added.



Gurmeet Singh, while welcoming the removal of Articles 370 and 35A, said that the Modi government has fulfilled the commitment made with people of the country in general and Jammu and Kashmir in particular. He said that due to these Articles, the State has not witnessed much development and people were forced to run from post to pillar for employment, medical and educational facilities and other purposes but now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful that move will usher a new era here. He further hoped that all modern facilities will be provided to residents of Jammu and Kashmir without any bias. Now, the newly formed Jammu Kashmir Union Territory will be brought under One Flag and One Constitution and there will be no place for anti-national elements, he added. He also appealed to the Prime Minister for implementation of Mandal Commission report and also to provide 27 per cent reservation to the OBCs residing in Jammu and Kashmir.



Repeal of Article 370 to end deprivation, discrimination



Sayeed Asid Malik, social activist expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for bestowing people with the gift of scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A on Eid, Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are happy with this decision. He said that the PM Modi gave freedom to the people of J&K from the Kashmir-centric politicians. He

said that the politicians of Kashmir Valley have misused these Articles by depriving the people of J&K from enjoying the fruits of development.



Nazia Malik, a working woman welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah with regard to Article 370 and hoped that the historic step will prove bountiful for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. She said, "Now women of J&K who marry with a non State subject can also get jobs in J&K. Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A is a win-win situation for all residents of the State", she said candidly

adding that repeal of these Articles has kindled hope among parents of technical savvy youth of the State, as the move is seen as stepping stone for bringing multinational companies to local soil thus raising the probability of bringing back their children.

Even as elements inimical to peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir are making repeal of Articles 370 and 35A religion specific in a bid to destabilise the erstwhile State, the opinion leaders of all hues and shades see ray of hope in the measure to alleviate poverty and ensure development. They feel that the initiatives will end deprivation and disempowerment of all segments of the society and usher the two Union Territories to a new era of progress and development.



growth rate starting with launch of metro, which is already on cards.

Mohammad Abbas Khan, a businessman said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a commendable step by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the politicians of J&K had looted the wealth of J&K for their personal motives. He said that the separatists and Kashmiri politicians have befooled the innocent people of J&K by asking them to persuade their children to become part of uprising while at the same time their own children were enjoying all the facilities of modern day world amid coziness of peaceful nations far away from the turmoil-ridden Kashmir Valley.

"I wholeheartedly welcome the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scrapping of aforesaid Articles will provide new avenues of employment to jobless and will help the region to reach at the pinnacle of peace and prosperity," he said adding that Jammu and Kashmir will soon witness rapid

Parvez Malik, a businessman said that the people of Jammu were kept away from getting benefits of policies and schemes of Central Government by means of Articles 370 and 35A cleverly carved by the Kashmiri politicians. He said that the abrogation of aforesaid Articles has brought a ray of hope among the people of J&K. He termed the repealing of these Articles was the need of hour. He said that the 'India is One' from J&K to Kanyakumari. He said that earlier the women of J&K were deprived of their rights after getting married to someone who doesn't belonged to the State but after scrapping of these contentious Articles the women of J&K will get their due share.



Ali Shah, a student appreciated the move of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah on scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He asserted that the scrapping of these Articles will open new vistas of opportunities for the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. He said that the youth of Jammu region had suffered a lot due to this impediment imposed on them by certain Kashmir-oriented politicians just to satiate their vested interests. He said that people of Jammu will be the major beneficiaries in the long run. He said that Modi government is working for welfare of J&K people, especially the youth, who are committed to play their role in nation building. He further mentioned that the Prime Minister is seriously concerned about people of J&K. He said that this decision would prove to be a boon for youth of Jammu and Kashmir.



India, US committed to eradicate Islamic terrorism: Trump

We gave farewell to Article 370: Modi

■ AGENCY

NEW DELHI: Sharing the stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Texas, US President Donald Trump said he was committed to fighting radical Islamic terrorism as he understands that border security is a vital issue for India.

The statement was met by a standing ovation by the 50,000 Indian-Americans at the NRG Stadium in Houston, indicating that the issue of terror emanating from Pakistan remains a key concern for the Indian diaspora abroad as well.

"We are committed to protecting innocent civilians from the threat of radical Islamic terrorism," Trump said during his 30-minute address, adding that border security is vital to both India and the US.

His statement, which assumes significance ahead of the UN General Assembly session, was also quoted by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a tweet.

"We are looking forward to concluding several new defence deals," Trump further said.



MODI-TRUMP TRIUMPH: US President Donald Trump sharing the dais with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Howdy, Modi event at Houston.

Trump, who hopes to woo the affluent Indian-American community by attending the 'Howdy, Modi' event ahead of next year's presidential elections, papered over the trade disputes between the two

countries underscoring the growing relations.

"India has never invested in the US like it is doing today and it is reciprocal, we are doing the same in India. PM Modi, I look forward to work-

ing with you to make our nations more prosperous than ever before... You have never had a better friend in the White House than President Donald Trump," he said.

The US President reciprocated the effusive praise given by Modi, as he said that the PM was doing an exceptional job in India.

"600 million Indians voted overwhelmingly for prime minister and his party. I join everyone here wishing you happy birthday. India has lifted nearly 300 million people out of poverty," he said.

Praising the Indian diaspora, Trump said he was proud to have them as Americans. "Indian Americans are pioneering medicine...founding new businesses, providing jobs to thousands. Our people are progressing like never before," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address at the mega Howdy Modi event on Sunday said the BJP government in India gave farewell to Article 370, which had deprived people of Jammu and Kashmir of development. "Article 370 had deprived people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh of development. Terror and separatist elements were misusing the situation. Now people there have got

- ▶ If you ask 'Howdy, Modi', I'll Say- Everything Great in India: Modi
- ▶ Trump says Border security vital to both America and India
- ▶ Modi targets Pakistan for support to terrorism
- ▶ Where were 9/11, 26/11 plotters found?: Modi slams Pakistan
- ▶ India determined for \$5 trillion economy: Modi
- ▶ Article 370 prevented J&K, Ladakh people from development: Modi
- ▶ Modi asks for standing ovation for President Trump
- ▶ May God bless you all: Modi ends speech

equal rights," he said.

Hitting out at Pakistan, Modi said some people had problems with the abrogation of Article 370. "These are the same people who could not govern their own country properly. These are the same people who shield terrorism and nurture it. The whole world knows

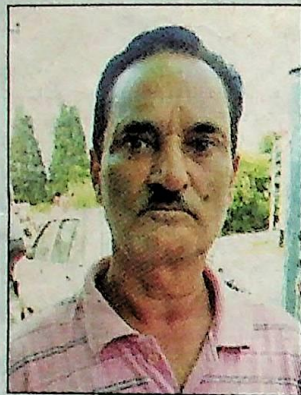
them very well," Modi said.

Earlier he introduced US President Donald Trump to the Indian-Americans as a very "special person" who has left a deep and lasting impact everywhere. Addressing over 50,000 Indian-Americans at the NRG Stadium, Modi said it was honour and privilege

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With Art 370 gone, KPs hopeful about return to Kashmir



B.L. Raina, General Secretary Udhaywala Welfare Committee said, "I was overwhelmed after hearing the announcement made by Home Minister Amit Shah in Rajya Sabha. For the first time, I felt being a part of India. This decision is going to change our fate. Now we the people will be decision-makers, not Kashmir-centric political set-up that discriminated against us on all fronts for the past seven decades. Now we are waiting for a policy for our return and rehabilitation in the Valley."



Makhan Lal, Mandal Pardhan said, "This is a commendable step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The politicians of Kashmir have only looted the wealth of J&K just to satiate their vested interest. The separatists and Kashmiri politicians have befooled the innocent people of J&K and had never thought of development and progress. Moreover, the daughters of J&K will also get their due share after the abrogation of Article 35A."

A brogation of Article 370 has enthused and elated the displaced Kashmiri Pandits the most, who see a ray of hope as far as return to their homes and hearths in the Valley is concerned. They see the measure as boldest in the past seven decades which has fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India. This will lead to emotional integration as well, they observe while exuding confidence that end to uncertainty will lead to development and prosperity of the people, irrespective of region, religion or caste.

R. A Raina, Chairman Udhaywala Welfare Committee said, "I wholeheartedly welcome the decision of Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I believe the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A will pave way for new avenues of employment to jobless and help the region to excel in terms of peace and development. The youth of Jammu and Kashmir had suffered a lot due to this impediment imposed by certain Kashmir-oriented politicians just to satisfy their own vested interest. Kashmiri politicians never worked for the development and exploited the youth. With the abrogation of Article 370, new opportunities will be there and we are hopeful that Prime Minister will work for the development and welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."



Vishav Nath Raina, a Kashmiri Pandit observed, "Article 370 was responsible for numerous ills in the State, including unemployment, corruption and mis-governance. Moreover, due to Article 35A, people of the State in general and women in particular suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination with them. No development was done in Kashmir. Youth were unemployed and indulged in anti-national activities due to the ruthless attitude of self-centered politicians but now we hope a new phase of development will begin."



With Articles 370, 35A gone, WPRs feel sense of empowerment



Sudagar Mal, a West Pakistani refugee, hailed the bold and courageous step taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for giving citizenship to the West Pakistani refugees by scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the refugees were deprived of voting rights and avenues in the higher educational institutions of J&K due to denial of Permanent Resident Certificates (PRCs). He said that most of the refugees are poor and that's why they were not able to provide good education to their wards. He also assailed the successive governments for giving step-motherly treatment to them.



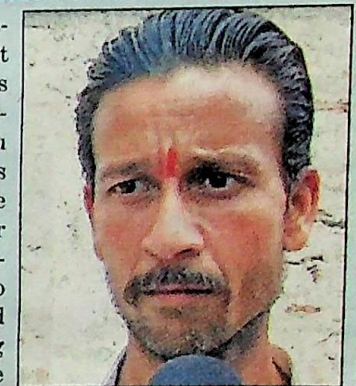
Kaushalya Devi, a senior citizen, welcomed the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A from the Constitution. She rued that the West Pakistani Refugees suffered a lot due to these Articles. "The children of West Pakistani refugees had no option but to go to the metro cities for employment but after J&K becoming a Union Territory, we are happy and contented about the future of our youth," she said and expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking these Articles and assured whole-hearted support to the BJP in its stride to ensure welfare of people of this country. "Now after the scrapping of these Articles of Constitution, we are hopeful for happy and prosperous future of our children," she added.

For seven decades they lived as children of lesser gods and citizens of nowhere. After facing the brunt of partition in terms of dislocation from their homes and hearths in West Pakistan, generations of refugees lived and died in a state of dejection and frustration. Now that the discriminatory Articles 370 and 35A are gone, the West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) are feeling a sense of empowerment and belonging to the land they inhabited for decades as aliens.



Sneha Kumari, a student, said that children of West Pakistani refugees living in J&K mostly studied upto class 10th or 12th as they knew that they could not get government job in Jammu and Kashmir. She said that there were very less opportunities for the West Pakistani refugees due to Article 370. She said that provision of Article 370 has deprived the entire community of their basic rights. "The West Pakistani refugees were debarred from buying properties and pursuing higher education in Jammu and Kashmir", she said adding that the country got freedom in 1947 but her community has become free from the clutches of Article 370 only on August 5, 2019 by the revolutionary and farsighted decision taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. She asserted, "Now I am also eligible to cast my vote for the first in J&K to elect the candidate of my own choice."

Sunny Kumar, a youth said, "Being victim of Articles 370 and 35A, I was not able to get the benefit of schemes launched by the state and central governments for the welfare of youth in Jammu and Kashmir. I was deprived of various benefits like higher education as State Subject certificate was a pre-requisite for availing the bounties offered by the afore-said schemes. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogating these anti-refugee Articles from the Constitution which arbitrarily denied citizenship rights to the community. He hoped that with scrapping of these Articles, the youth of the community shall now become eligible for employment in government departments.



Ram Lal, a senior citizen, said he had never thought that Article 370 can be scrapped by any of the governments. He said that repealing of Articles 370 and 35A is being considered as a sign of hope and justice among the West Pakistani refugees residing in Jammu and Kashmir. He said Article 370 has grilled the entire community by depriving it from enjoying rights which are extended to other compatriots. "In Jammu and Kashmir, there was no future for West Pakistani refugees and the community lagged behind others", he said, adding that for the past 70 years we are living like slaves due to lack of facilities. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving full rights to the community at par with other citizens of the India.



Scrapping of Art 370 will lead to massive industrialisation



Raj Kumar, a resident of Gujjar Nagar welcomed the decision regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A and said the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are happy as the same will open new vistas of opportunities for them with the establishment of multinational companies in the Jammu region. He hoped that the people of J&K will witness a new era of development soon. He extended full support to the BJP Government at the Centre for this bold and revolutionary decision.



Sham Lal, a resident of Jammu expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping Articles 370 and 35A and termed it as historic, bold and game-changing decisions. He urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah to take all possible measures to control Valley-based political leaders who misled people for their personal motives. He assailed these leaders for creating a sense of panic among the people and held them responsible for present situation in Kashmir. "People of Jammu are celebrating freedom from the slavery of corrupt politicians of Kashmir Valley," Sham Lal said and extended full support to the BJP Government at the Centre for every endeavour taken for overall benefit and betterment of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The support to the historic move of the NDA government in amending Article 370 and abolishing Article 35A will prove a game changer for the erstwhile State with investments pouring in for mega industrialization. This, together with the corporate sector, will eventually lead to tackling the vexed unemployment problem. The youth of Jammu in particular will benefit from this historic move, which has ended the psychological barrier of subjugation of the Kashmir centric politicians, faced by people for over seven decades.



Nitish Mahajan, BJP leader said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will pave way for massive industrialization in Jammu and Kashmir that will lead to employment for educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled workforce. He asserted that the scrapping of Article 370 was a big slap on the face of Kashmiri politicians, who had misguided Kashmiris for their personal motives. Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions, he said, adding that the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are overwhelmed with the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. "It is now hoped that Jammu region will witness a new era of development", he added.

Tsewang Palmo, a resident of Leh, presently studying in Jammu, said that the long pending demand of the Ladakhi people has been fulfilled with the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A besides reorganization of the State. She asserted that Ladakh being the favourite tourist destination will see enormous development in the coming time. She expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Ladakhis, who always faced discrimination by successive State governments. "Modi and Shah have created history which will be remembered for times to come. This step will provide a bright future to students of Ladakh," she added. She also hoped that Ladakhi people will now witness unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost.

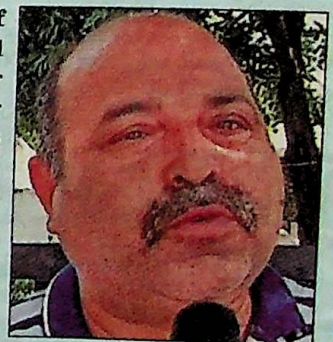


Prerna Nanda, a BJP leader termed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogating Articles 370 and 35A of constitution as historic and courageous. She said that earlier there was no future for professionals in the State but after scrapping of Article 370, the Jammu youth are feeling a sense of confidence. She asserted that the women of Jammu and Kashmir would also get their due share, of which they were deprived earlier. Lauding the Prime Minister, she said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in annals of the history in golden letters.



Shashi Kant Sapolia, a resident of Jullaka Mohalla, Jammu expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He said the move has given freedom to people of Jammu from Kashmir-centric politicians. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the erstwhile State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," he added.

"People suffered a lot due to these controversial provisions, as these were the root cause of miseries including unemployment, corruption, lack of development and terrorism. I believe that this historic decision will make Kashmir terrorism-free and lead it on the path of overall development," he said and hoped that abrogation of Article 370 would definitely improve the socio-economic status of people to a great extent.



Revocation of Art 370 a dream come true for PoJK refugees

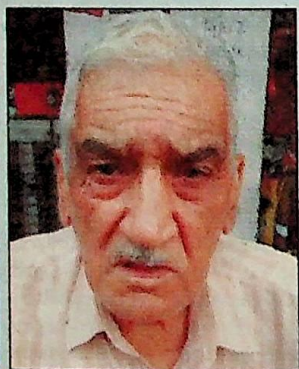


Sanjeev Kumar Vaid, a Mirpur PoK refugee, said that scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A has brought a ray of hope among the displaced people, who faced a lot of problems due to indifference shown by successive governments over the issue.

He hoped that several of their difficulties shall now be mitigated by the abrogation of Article 370. He said that August 5 will be remembered as a point of renaissance for the refugee community as their aspiration has been fulfilled by the scrapping of this contentious Article of the constitution. "With the

creation of two Union Territories viz Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, the job avenues are expected to increase manifold with the establishment of MNCs in the region, he added.

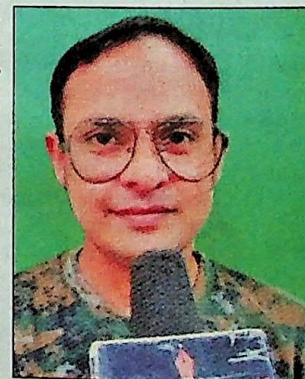
The refugees of the Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) are jubilant over revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. It is like a dream coming true all of sudden, rekindling hope for better future for the children. Having suffered on all fronts, due to deprivation and denial of their rights, they are looking towards jobs coming in immense with big industries and corporate sector chipping in.



Madan Lal Gupta, an elderly person, said that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir in general and PoJK refugees in particular have suffered a lot after leaving their homes. He said that the successive governments gave step motherly treatment to the community and did nothing for the welfare of refugees. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for revoking Articles 370 and 35A, saying the decision would prove to be a boon for the people of J&K. He further said that after

repealing of Article 370, various opportunities will crop up for the youth to prosper and ensure a bright future without leaving the region. He appealed to Prime Minister and Home Minister to take all necessary steps for bringing new welfare schemes for the people of State.

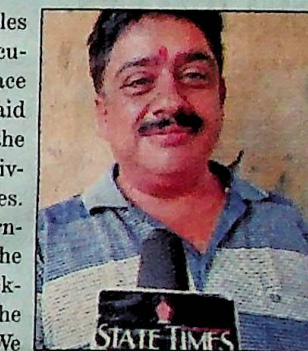
Shammi Kumar said that the abrogation of Article 370 along with Article 35A has been widely hailed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir irrespective of their caste, creed, religion and region barring those for whom it was a milking cow. He said that the special status granted to the State of Jammu and Kashmir as a blessing at some stage, proved to be a great curse at the hands of rulers. He congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah who with a one stroke silenced the Azadi, autonomy and self rule like slogans which were being projected and propagated at political level. He said that Kashmiri politicians have looted the wealth of Jammu and Kashmir and misguided the people for their personal motives. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir will now experience the real meaning of freedom, progress and prosperity.



Sanjeev Kumar Gupta welcomed the removal of Articles 370 and 35A, saying this will go a long way in bringing big industries in the region thus paving way for ample job opportunities and ending the era of joblessness which the region faced during last over 70 years. "It is likely that the abrogation of Article 370 will give a major boost to local economy and will change the course of people's life towards prosperity and opulence", he said adding Article 370 was the biggest obstacle and mistake of past which has been corrected now after 70 years by the Modi government. He said that today entire India is rejoicing the moment, as Jammu and Kashmir will also move ahead on path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. He asserted that youth of J&K have suffered a lot due to this controversial Article but after its removal the people of State especially Jammu are feeling secured and elated.



Rajesh Bali said that the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A was need of the hour for the security of nation and also for the safety of the peace loving people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the successive governments in J&K and the Centre did nothing for the refugees except giving hollow slogans and misusing the resources. He also expressed gratitude to the Modi government for showing serious concern towards the refugees also by releasing Rs 2000 crore package and hoped that second installment of the same would be released at the earliest. "We would extend full support to the Union Government for every initiative taken for development of Jammu and Kashmir," Bali added.



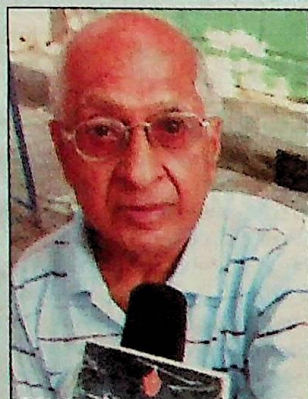
Article 370 deprived Jammu of its due in employment, development



Sheetal Sharma, a resident of Jammu expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. She said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their due-share in various spheres while Kashmiri politicians looted the wealth unabatedly. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as huge development is expected to take place in J&K," Sheetal said, adding that youth of Jammu will also get employment avenues after re-organisation of the erstwhile State.

She appealed to the Prime Minister to take adequate measures to address unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

A big obstacle in the process of development of Jammu and Ladakh regions, Article 370 was used by many Kashmir centric politicians in bullying New Delhi to fill their own coffers even at the cost of fellow Kashmiris. Now that this provision has been amended, Ladakh will prosper as a Union Territory while Jammu is set to get equitable opportunities in development and employment. The youth have a reason to rejoice over repealing of the contentious provisos that retarded their overall growth for decades.



Subash Gupta, a trader while welcoming the revoking of Articles 370 and 35A, said that the women of J&K will be actual beneficiaries who have earlier been deprived of their genuine rights. He asserted that earlier the women from J&K, after marrying a non state-subject, were debarred of their rights but now the daughters of J&K have become at par with their counterparts across the nation. He said that central laws would now be directly applicable to J&K and the benefits of central government schemes will also percolate down to the beneficiaries.

He added the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh will get equal benefits with the abrogation of the Articles 370 and 35A. He emphasized that each section of society will be benefited with the abrogation of these articles.

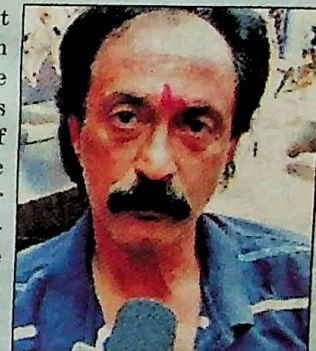
Vivek Singh Sudan, a staffer in private firm at Chandigarh said that due to contentious Article 370, I am working outside my home State viz. J&K as jobs here were scanty. He said that Article 370 was the reason behind development deficit and joblessness in State. He asserted that the youth have been forced to move out from J&K in search of their livelihood as Article 370 was the biggest hurdle in the development of State. He said that entire country has witnessed large scale development since independence but people in J&K were deprived of the same due to Article 370. He said that with abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of J&K into two Union Territories, the decades-old discrimination with Jammu will end and the region will also develop at par with other States of the country.



Jyoti Sharma, a Jammu resident said that with repealing of Articles 370 and 35A, the future generation of J&K will get huge benefits. She said the people of J&K have wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of Modi government. She said that the politicians of Kashmir Valley have supported terrorism under the garb of this controversial Article. She added that scrapping of Article 370 has shut down their shops which earlier they were running by misguiding the people of Kashmir Valley. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," Sharma added. "The abrogation of Article 370 by PM Modi has created a history which will be remembered for times to come. Such step will provide a bright future to students of Jammu as well as Kashmir," she maintained.



Tarsem Anand, a shopkeeper said that Articles 370 and 35A should have been scrapped much earlier. He said that the people of J&K have suffered a lot due to contentious Article 370. He said the common man of Jammu has got nothing from this Article as he got step-motherly treatment in every sector whether education or employment in government sector. He said, "I have witnessed the working of successive governments in J&K and the people of Kashmir Valley are real sufferers as political class there has misused the youth by instigating them to indulge in stone-pelting or other anti-national activities". He thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for satiating aspirations of Jammu people, who always faced discrimination by successive Governments in every sector.

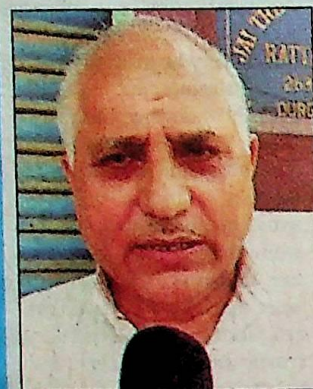


Move on Art 370 kindles ray of hope among KPs living in exile



Vishwanath Raina said that Article 370 was like a wall for Kashmiri Pandits and also resulted in mass exodus of KPs from Kashmir Valley. He said that Valley based leaders misused the Articles 370 and 35A for looting wealth as well as funds meant for development of J&K. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking a historical decision of scrapping Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He said with abrogation of Article 370, wards of Kashmiri

Pandits would have a bright future, as the decision would open new employment avenues for youth of Jammu and Kashmir.



Bhushan Lal Raina said that Article 370 was introduced for the welfare of State's people but the same proved out to be contrary and was misused extensively by a handful of people just to satiate their vested interests. He said that Kashmiri Pandit community was forced to leave their homes and hearth only because of this contentious Article. He said that Modi government has taken a wise decision by scrapping Article 370. He recalled that Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address on Independence Day has assured the Kashmiri Pandit community that BJP

Government is working for their welfare. "We have full faith in PM Modi's resolve", he said and lauded the Prime Minister for taking the bold step. He said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters.

After spending long years in exile and leading miserable lives in various tenements and camps, the Kashmiri Pandit community is now hopeful of a vivid future of their wards, after necessary amendments were made in Article 370 by the Prime Minister and Home Minister. With reorganisation of the State into two Union Territories, the KP community is feeling much more secure, as now the regions would be directly under the Centre's administration and is welcoming the decision of Union Government, terming it as 'historic'.

Makhan Lal hailed Government of India for ending dynasty rule in Jammu and Kashmir with repealing of Articles 370 and 35A. He alleged that Abdullahs and Muftis misused people of Kashmir Valley for their personal motives.

Employees of J&K as well as daily wagers, who faced apathy of successive Governments in Jammu and Kashmir, would be benefitted with scrapping of these articles, he said, adding that all those, who are opposing scrapping of Article 370 are not nationalists in real sense.

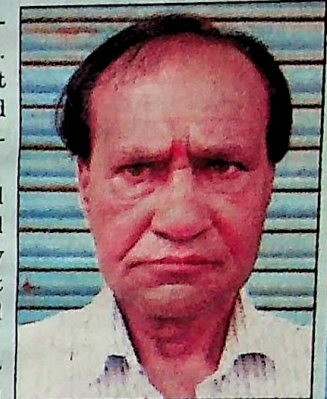
"Entire Kashmiri Pandit community stands with the decision of Narendra Modi and extends full support to the Prime Minister for taking new initiatives for development of New India in future," he maintained.



R A Raina said that Modi Government is working tirelessly for welfare of people and nation. He welcomed the decision of Modi Government for granting Union Territory status to J&K and Ladakh, which would usher a new era of development in J&K.

He further said that Narendra Modi has full sympathy with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is determined to develop the newly announced UTs on modern lines, adding that Modi Government is committed for peace and prosperity of the country.

He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the controversial Articles and assured whole-hearted support to BJP in its stride for ensuring welfare of people.



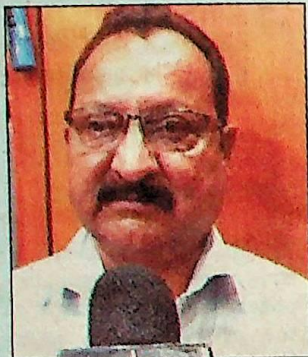
Extending heartiest congratulation to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and people of the country for scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, **B.L Raina** said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has brought a ray of hope for people of the country, as he is working day and night for improving lifestyle of common masses.

He hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming future and extended full support to BJP Government at the Centre for taking a bold and revolutionary decision.

"Now, after scrapping of these Articles of Constitution, we are hopeful of a happy and prosperous future for our children," he observed.



Article 370 retarded growth of Jammu, starved youth of jobs

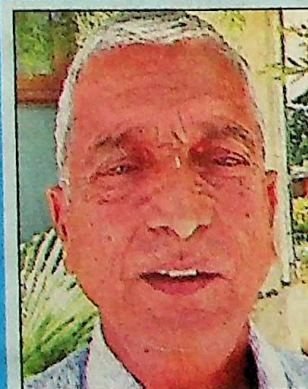


Raju Pradhan, Businessman, expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for removing Articles 370 and 35A and said the people of Jammu region suffered hugely due to these provisos of the Constitution. He said earlier there was no future of our children here and they had to migrate to the metro cities for earning livelihood. With the scrapping of these Articles, the people of Jammu are happy and hoping that their children will get suitable employment in J&K itself, he said,

adding that it is also expected that region will see rapid phase of industrial growth and business shall also become more bountiful post abrogation of Article 370.

Jammu is overwhelmingly welcoming the repeal of Article 370 by saying that the Kashmir centric politicians used this as a tool to bully New Delhi, discriminate the two regions of Jammu and Ladakh besides exploiting poor Kashmiris too. Some of these unscrupulous politicians used the special status to shield their acts of omission and commission in successive dispensations. With this provision gone, people are seeing a ray of light at the end of the tunnel.

Rahat Baru, an employee said revoking of Article 370 will change the destiny of youth of Jammu region. He said that it is very difficult for parents having single child, who are forced to move to big cities in search of jobs and a better future, thus leaving them in wilderness. He said that the J&K State Government mostly starved the youth of the region in respect of jobs. He said that the move of creating UTs will prove beneficial for the people of the region because the salary and perks of employees shall now become at par with Central Government employees which are quite lucrative. He hailed the decision of BJP-led NDA Government for removing the Articles 370 and 35A.



Sain Dass Malhotra, a senior citizen of Jammu said that due to Article 370, the entire Backward Classes community was deprived of their basic rights. He said the country got freedom in 1947 but the Backward Classes community of J&K has become free from the clutches of Article 370 only on August 5, 2019 by the revolutionary and historical decision taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He appealed to the Prime Minister to grant full rights to the OBC community residing in

Jammu and Kashmir at par with similarly placed categories across the country.

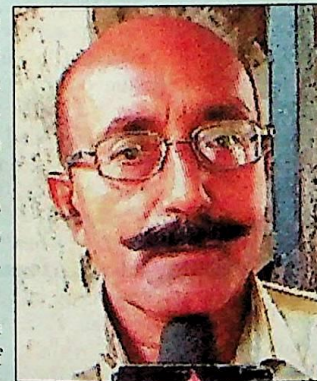
He said only due to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the OBCs will get their due share.

Jaseel Singh, a resident of Jammu hailed the move of Central Government for removing the Articles 370 and 35A. He said the people of Jammu region got freedom from the clutches of Kashmiri politicians who misused special status granted to State for their wrong-doings.

He said the people of Jammu have also played a vital role in the formation of BJP Government at the Centre which is working for the welfare of people of the country.

He added that the Article 370 should have been revoked much earlier as it has deprived people of Jammu region from the benefits of development as well as industrialisation.

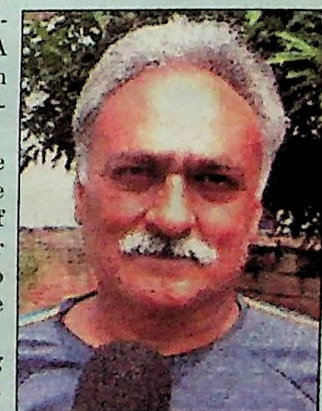
He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the Articles 370 and 35A and assured whole-hearted support to the BJP in its stride to ensure welfare of people of the country.



S.D. Jamwal, a resident of Roop Nagar welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He said that women were the most affected and suffered huge losses due to this controversial article.

He said due to Article 370, most of the women were deprived of their rights in the maternal property. He said abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A was the need of the hour as the move paved way for ensuring rights to the people belonging to various sections of the society.

He also welcomed the removal of J&K flag from the civil secretariat building in Srinagar. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving rights to J&K people at par with the citizens of the India.



Art 370 blocked reputed faculty from joining AIIMS, IIT: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Article 370 blocked reputed and some of the best national level faculty luminaries from joining professional teaching institutions like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Jammu & Kashmir.

With the stumbling block removed, it has opened the



prospects of some of the best teachers and Professors from the rest of the country coming forward to take up jobs in professional institutions and help in the growth of these institutions at par with other similar institutions of AIIMS and IIT in the rest of India.

Interacting with a group of

Delhi based students from some of the remote areas of district Doda and district Udhampur, at North Block here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, even after the approval of AIIMS, the difficulty was being faced in finding a suitable faculty because reputed teachers from outside refused to take up jobs when they realized that they would have to live in Jammu & Kashmir without owning a residential house of their own and without the opportunity of their children getting admission in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

30-8-19

Marginalised segments of Jammu see hope in scrapping of J&K special status



Rinku Gill welcomed the decision of scrapping provisions of Article 35A and 370 thus giving freedom to the segments like Safaikaramcharis who are residing in J&K since 1957. He mentioned that Valmiki community were brought to J&K by the government to quell the protest of the then Union of Safaikaramcharis and maintain cleanliness of streets in 1957.

Gill asserted that due to Article 370, entire Valmiki community was deprived of its basic rights and got freedom on August 5, 2019 with abrogation of the Articles 370 and 35A. He hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing full rights to the Safaikaramcharis at par with other citizens of India. He said the Valmiki community is hoping that their wards will now get jobs in Jammu and Kashmir without any hindrance.

The abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir has rekindled a hope among marginalized segments of the society in this part of the erstwhile State, who left their homes and hearths in 1957 and made Jammu their second home, just to serve the people here. They worked tirelessly but remained aliens for over six decades, deprived of citizenship rights. This took toll of their generations who ended up in misery and dejection. Now that the course correction has been made, they look for a better future for their children, who are as enterprising and talented as others.



William Massi said that the issues of Safaikaramcharis were neglected since their migration to State of Jammu and Kashmir on the behest of government. He said it was Modi government who took an initiative to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A from the Jammu and Kashmir. "After the abrogation of Article 370, there is a celebration among Valmiki community in Jammu. Sweets are being distributed because with the end of special status there is no further need for a permanent residence certificate which kept the community away from government jobs," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for scrapping these Articles, he hoped that the young generation of Valmikis will get the benefits of employment besides pursuing higher studies.



Ashwani said that the present ruling government at the Centre has taken a bold and courageous decision by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He asserted that earlier there was no future of wards of Safaikaramcharis in J&K due to these controversial Articles. He said that several members of Valmiki Samaj started their job as Safaikaramcharis and continued the same in their whole life as they had no other option to do another work. He said that the whole community was thankful to the Prime Minister for this bold and historic decision, which freed the community from the chains of slavery. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for understanding the pain and sufferings of the Safaikaramcharis.

Rajesh Massi expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for saving the future of Safaikaramcharis' children. He said that the generations of Safaikaramcharis were the most affected in J&K due to Article 35A. "For over six decades the community has been deprived of Permanent Resident Certificates and are being forced to work as Safaikaramcharis due to lack of jobs for their children," he said.

"Earlier in Jammu and Kashmir, there was no future for us," he said adding that for the past 62 years we were living like slaves due to dynasty rule of Kashmiri politicians. "Only due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Safaikaramcharis would now get equal opportunities at par with other residents of the State", he maintained.



Sunny Gill said that Central Government is doing a yeoman's job by taking several big and historical decisions including demonetisation, GST, revoking of Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir, etc. He said the successive governments have not shown any concern or inclination towards the plights of Safaikaramcharis. He said that the historical decision taken by Modi government will be remembered in the history.

"It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire Valmiki community is thankful to Modi for fulfilling its long pending demand," he said and expressed thanks to Governor Satya Pal Malik who played a vital role in creating a situation, which has brought about a discernible change in the overall scenario in the erstwhile State.



J&K youth will benefit most by abrogation of Article 370



Varun Sharma, a youth hailed the bold and courageous decision of BJP led Government at the Centre whereby contentious Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution were abrogated. He said people are wholeheartedly supporting the Modi Government for its nationalist policies. He hoped that after acquiring the Union Territory status, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will not have to move out as new universities and colleges will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively. He said the wall of Article 370 has been removed which earlier stopped the multinational companies from coming to J&K region. He said that the abrogation of these Articles will change the destiny of nationalists residing in Jammu and Kashmir.



Sunil Sharma, a trader said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A is a timely decision of the Central Government. He said that present BJP government has, in right perspective, understood the feelings of the people of Jammu region which the earlier dispensations never bothered to understand. He also said that the successive governments never projected sufferings of the people of this mountainous region before the Central Government thus forcing people to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities. He said that BJP Government-2 without wasting any time has revoked this controversial Article, which kept the people of Jammu region on back-foot on all fronts. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country.

A growing realization is dawning upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir about the level of exploitation inflicted on them under the garb of Article 370 and Article 35A. While they were deprived of the jobs in the government sector, very legible openings in the private sector could not hold them in their homes and hearths, as a result of which they were forced to move out for earning livelihood. Now that the obstacles in the way of their growth have been removed, the youth are all set to get benefitted by opportunities knocking at their doors.

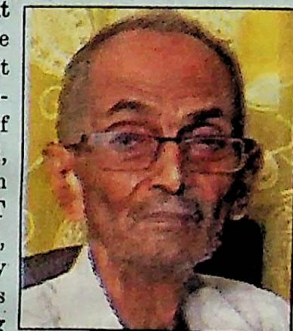
Seema Matoo, educationist and social activist said that Jammu has hugely suffered due to Article 370. She asserted that Article 370 was a temporary provision and it could have been removed much earlier. She said that the common people suffered a lot due to anti-Jammu policies of the Kashmiri politicians. She said most of the Kashmiri politicians with very humble backgrounds have enriched themselves, which is discernible by the fact that huge wealth has been accumulated by looting the State Exchequer. She asserted that wards of many Kashmiri politicians are studying outside J&K while they are misguiding poor youth in the Valley and using them for their personal motives. She said that the youth of J&K had become victim of Article 370 as all the government jobs were mostly provided to a particular section in the Kashmir Valley and the youth of Jammu region was forced to move towards metro cities in search of livelihood. She emphasized that Modi government has taken a wise decision by abrogating the Articles 370 and 35A.



Ashok Kumar, an elderly said that the scrapping of Article 370 was need of the hour. "If BJP-led government at the Centre had not taken this decision, the days were not far when the people of Jammu would have to leave their homes and hearths and migrate to other places due to Kashmir-centric policies promulgated and promoted by several Valley based politicians. People of Jammu region have received a major setback due to lack of political leadership in Jammu region. The successive governments in J&K gave step motherly treatment to the Jammu people and never projected the problems being faced by Jammu people before concerned quarters at the Centre. Almost in every sector and every sphere, people of Jammu region have faced the wrath of Kashmiri politicians," he said adding that the share of Jammu region, whether in employment or development, had been given to the Kashmir Valley. He expressed gratitude to the Modi government for giving them freedom in real sense and hoped that the people of Jammu region will get their due share soon.



Hans Raj Sharma, retired AEE, Rural Development Department expressed gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said the people of Jammu region from Lakhanpur to Rajouri, Kishtwar, Bhadarwah and Ramban are happy with the decision of the BJP Government on granting UT status to J&K and Ladakh. Expressing satisfaction, he said that removal of these Articles will pave way for the people of this region to enjoy all the rights which they were denied earlier. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions," he said and hoped that people of Jammu region will witness unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost.



Post Art 370 dilution, Jammu feels free from shackles of Kashmiri hegemony



for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Vikram Singh, social activist said the people of J&K are happy over National Flag unfurling at the Civil Secretariat, making end to 'Do Nishan'. He said scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A is a good decision for the people and cautioned them not to believe in rumours that jobs in J&K will be taken by the outsiders. He said the youth of J&K are well educated and have caliber to compete in every sector. He asked the people of Jammu to extend full support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah

The amendments to Article 370 and repeal of Article 35A has given a much-needed psychological boost to the people of Jammu, who are now feeling free from the shackles of Kashmiri hegemony of nearly seven decades. The era will go into the annals of history as bad chapter, which witnessed the proud Duggarland and the desert region of Ladakh suffocating and remaining in subjugation of the Kashmir centric political executives.

Usha Bali, an elderly woman, expressed happiness over scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. She said Modi government has taken a remarkable step by abrogating these contentious Articles of Constitution and hoped that with this decision women of J&K in particular will get their rights at par with rest of the country. "Moreover, due to Article 35A, people of the State in general and women in particular suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination", she said adding that Modi Government has taken a wise decision, which was need of the hour. "PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have created history. The historic decision is in the interest of nation. Understanding pain of people of Jammu, Modi has fulfilled his promise. We are very much thankful to him for the historic decision," she added.



and Kashmir will also get the benefit of centrally sponsored schemes.

Prem Gupta, a trader hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh. He said abrogation of aforesaid Article is rising of 'New Jammu and Kashmir', where everyone can enjoy rights without any fear or discrimination.

He said the successive governments have befooled the people of Jammu region for their selfish motives. He said that Modi government has launched welfare policies for the weaker sections of society and hoped that the poor segment of Jammu

Deepak Kumar, a BJP leader said that the NDA government at the Centre did a fabulous job by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He appealed to the BJP Government to hold probe into the bungling and misappropriations committed by Kashmiri politicians through scams and punish them under law. He said the people of Jammu region were deprived of their due share. "Now with the abrogation of these controversial Articles, the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to other regions by the successive governments," he added. He further said that after scrapping of this controversial Article a new era of development will be seen in Jammu.



Rakesh Kumar, a shopkeeper said the people of Jammu region are benefitted the most by scrapping of Article 370. "They faced discrimination in every sector at the hands of Kashmir centric politicians. For the past about seven decades, people have suffered a lot due to this controversial Article and their grievances remained unaddressed, but now after J&K becoming a UT, they are hopeful that all necessary steps would be taken to mitigate their sufferings besides preserving Dogra Culture and heritage", he said. He further asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grass roots level.



2-9-19

Days of Valley leaders blackmailing Centre gone with demise of Art 370



Expressing gratitude towards Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu people by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, **Amit Sethi, a local youth** said that now unemployed youth of Jammu would not migrate to metro cities for finding jobs. "With removal of these controversial articles, it is hoped that a number of Multi-national companies would set-up their units in Jammu, thereby opening new employment avenues for youth, who till date were worst sufferer of Kashmir-centric policies. Majority shares of all devel-

opment schemes and packages released by the Union Government for overall development of the State were always diverted to Valley, ignoring people of Jammu region. All successive State Governments also failed to properly project needs of Jammu region in the Center, as Valley always remained their priority. But in reality, Kashmir based politicians also befooled valley people and used them for their personal motives besides looting State exchequer to fill their coffers," Amit asserted.



Sagar Sharma said, "With the abrogation of special status, Jammu and Kashmir has now become a conflict-free region where politicians' with vested interests can no longer blackmail central government on one or the other pretext. The greatest tragedy of Kashmir was the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits which was the handiwork of aforesaid politicians. These politicians of the State at times had demanded greater autonomy, self rule, Azadi, etc. With the move to remove Article 370, the NDA Government led by BJP has made these politicians redundant in

one go and created numerous opportunities for the development and welfare of the erstwhile State of J&K. Scrapping of Article 370 has now paved the way for the return of KPs to Valley."

After reeling under years of discrimination and continuous rejection by valley-based politicians, people of Jammu in general and youth in particular are now feeling bit confident as amendment made by the Union Government in controversial Article 370 has invoked a ray of hope for better future among them. Deceived and repeatedly blackmailed by valley-based politicians on one or other issue, people of Jammu region are now contended that at last someone did the yeoman's job, which was a dream for them till August 5, 2019.

Ayodhya Gupta, BJP leader said that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A is a big slap on the face of so-called politicians of Kashmir Valley who misused the provisions of Article 370 for their personal gain. He said scrapping of aforesaid Articles has given a big jolt to the Kashmiri politicians who misused their constitutional power for looting the wealth of J&K. He said that the move was the long pending demand of people of Jammu region since 1953 agitation. He said One Constitution and One Flag was one of the demands of aforesaid agitation. He hailed the timely decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to save the people of Jammu region from the lopsided policies of Kashmiri leaders. He expressed hope that abrogation of these Articles will pave way for the development of Jammu region.



Sameer Chandok, a businessman congratulated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah for operating out the thorn in Indian flesh because of which the country had been bleeding for the last seven decades. He said that Articles 370 and 35A were the creation of politicians who had taken this State for granted and these Articles benefitted only handful of politicians at the cost of not only the poor people of Jammu and Kashmir but the people of whole of the country. "Though a few misguided poor people are hurt because of the abrogation of these Articles but the time will make them understand the benefits they have been bestowed. The people of whole of Jammu and Kashmir will witness the progress and development during the time to come", he maintained.



Vivek Bangwal, social activist said that the BJP Government has become much more popular for ending dynasty rule in Jammu and Kashmir with repealing of Articles 370 and 35A. With the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the people of J&K are feeling much more secure as things have now gone under Central administration. He hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming time and extended full support to BJP Government at the Centre for taking this bold and revolutionary decision. He said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the controversial Articles 370 and 35A, and assured whole-hearted support to BJP in its stride for ensuring welfare of people.



J&K State financial position improved post-Art 370: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and MoS PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Jammu and Kashmir State financial position has improved post-Article 370 in the last four weeks, contrary to the ominous predictions being made by the prophets of doom.

After receiving a 40-minute briefing from Principal Secretary Finance, Government of J&K, Arun Kumar Mehta, Dr Jitendra Singh said that as the abrogation of Article 370 will complete four weeks in three days from now, he is convinced that instead of getting disturbed or destabilized, the overall financial standing of the State has become more stable.

In spite of certain restrictions and constraints during the last one month, he said, there is not a single pending payment with the State



Principal Secretary, Finance, J&K Government, Arun Kumar Mehta calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, at New Delhi on Monday.

Treasury and all the bills as well as GPF and Gratuity payments have been made on time, and often more promptly than on certain occasions in the past.

Citing figures Dr Jitendra Singh said, he has been conveyed that the State Government has spent Rs 2,500 crore more in the current financial year under Governor's rule, compared to the corresponding peri-

od of 1st April to 31st August last year.

This, he said, leads to the inevitable conclusion that during the Governor's rule, particularly during the last few months, the mismanagement of State exchequer has been overcome to a large extent, which was earlier responsible for frequent financial crunch and deficit.

In addition to the government plan

to provide 50,000 jobs as already announced, Mehta also apprised Dr Jitendra Singh of certain options to generate self-employment without much extra financial liability.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed Mehta that an officers' team of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) will be touring Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh from the 5th of September and they have been advised to interact with the concerned departments to work out how best some of the successful initiatives of North East can be replicated in J&K and Ladakh.

In this context, he made a special mention of the successful "Rural Livelihood Project" and the "Venture Fund" for Start-Ups carried out in the North East, which has not only resulted in livelihood opportunities for the local youth, but has also started attracting young Start-Up groups from other parts of the country.

After annulling of Art 370, J&K to prosper, progress as never before



Roop Krishan welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that this was long pending demand of the people as these Articles deprived them of their rights. He said that earlier in Jammu and Kashmir the people were living like slaves due to dynasty rule of Kashmiri politicians. "Only due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu people would now get opportunities at par with other residents of the country", he said. He said the scrapping of

Article 370 will lead surplus industrialization in Jammu region thus paving way for more jobs for youths.



Chaman Lal Pandit expressed gratitude to the BJP government for taking a historical decision of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that due to wrong policies of Congress, Kashmiri Pandits have been forced to leave the Kashmir Valley. He hailed Central Government for ending dynasty rule in Jammu and Kashmir. He alleged that the politicians of Kashmir Valley misused people for their personal motives. "Funds meant for the development were looted openly and no development was seen in J&K in the last seventy years.

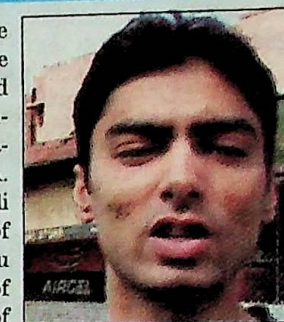
Entire Kashmiri Pandit community stands with the decision of Narendra Modi and extends full support to him for taking new initiatives for development of new India," he said.

People of Jammu in general and Kashmiri Pandit community in particular were waiting long for abrogation of Article 370 as they wanted complete integration of J&K with India, which was not possible earlier due to Article 370. A number of parliamentary laws and development schemes initiated for growth of people remained away from J&K due to this contentious Article of the constitution, thereby making J&K an under-developed State. Now, after necessary amendments in Article 370 and repealing of Article 35A, people are hopeful that J&K shall also flourish and witness a new dawn of unprecedented development, which they were waiting since decades.

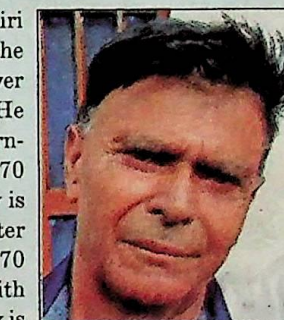
Shankar Singh Chib JKNPP leader expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the Articles 370 and 35A and assured whole-hearted support to the BJP in its stride to ensure welfare of people of the country. He asserted that this controversial Article should have been revoked much earlier as it has deprived people of Jammu region from the benefits of development and industrialization. He said that revoking of Article 370 will change the destiny of youth of Jammu region. He said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters.



Sudhanshu, a youth said that a new ray of hope has emerged among the people of Jammu after the abrogation of Article 370 from the Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the present ruling government at the Centre has taken a bold and courageous decision by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have taken care of the pain and sufferings of the people of Jammu region by taking this decision. He said scrapping of Article 370 would be remembered in the history of J&K as landmark decision. Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for scrapping the Article 370, he hoped that the people of Jammu region will now get more and more opportunities to prosper and progress.



Ashok Kumar Ambardar said that the Kashmiri Pandits have been living a miserable life for the last 30 years and the successive governments never bothered to take stock of their sufferings. He expressed gratitude to Narendra Modi led government at the Centre for repealing the Articles 370 and 35A. He said, "Kashmiri Pandit community is now hopeful of a vivid future of their wards, after necessary amendments were made in Article 370 by the Prime Minister and Home Minister." With reorganisation of J&K State, the KP community is feeling much more secure, as now the regions would be directly under the Centre's administration and is welcoming the decision of Union Government, terming it as 'historic'.



Move on Art 370 marks end to siphoning of central funds



Corporator Dinesh Gupta said that there is a feeling of celebration among people of Jammu and Kashmir, as after 70 years they got the freedom from the policies of Kashmiri politicians who had deprived the people of development just to satiate their petty political gains. He asserted that all the credit of abrogation of Article 370 goes to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah. He said that common masses of Kashmiri Valley are also happy with this move and hoped that their wards will also get the benefit of central government policies. He also said that pensioners of J&K will also get the benefits of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said now they have been able to get Rs 3000 per month as old-age pension as per the promise of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "PM has fulfilled his commitment and made the slogan a reality that 'Modi Hai Toh Mumkin Hai'," he added.



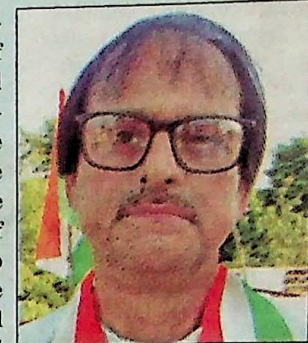
Jugal Kishore, a senior citizen welcomed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that these contentious Articles which have caused lot of inconvenience to the people of the region should have been eradicated much earlier as these have taken toll of many generations. "People got a sigh of relief after the revocation of these Articles and they are anticipating Achhe Din in the coming times as restrictions imposed by means of these Articles in bringing central schemes' benefits to State have now been removed", he said adding that future of the country is in safe hands. He asserted that the revocation of these Articles has opened new vistas of opportunities for various communities residing in J&K without 'citizenship' and other entailing rights. He asserted that the August 5 will be remembered as a landmark date by the people of J&K and Ladakh.

Time and again people of Jammu were kept deprived of the benefits of various development initiatives of Union Government, by a handful of politicians, for whom their personal motives were always at top. Huge funds meant for development of people and State were plundered openly under the shield of Article 370 in J&K, as there was none to take cognizance of the same. But at last, under the stewardship of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah took a significant decision by making necessary amendments in Article 370 and repealing Article 35A, which would satiate aspirations of millions.



Union Territory has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, he said.

Manik Kaul criticized the successive governments of J&K for not developing the tourist destinations of Jammu and Ladakh regions, besides giving step-motherly treatment to both regions on all fronts. He said people of J&K and Ladakh are happy with the decision of Prime Minister and Home Minister for removing the Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the tourism places of Jammu were not developed for keeping Kashmir on front-foot. He said after the reorganization of the J&K State into two Union Territories, both the territories will be developed with the equal distribution of funds and employment opportunities to the youth. JK, as being a

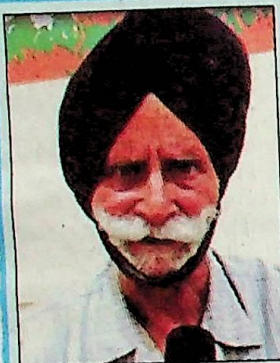


D.K. Bhan held certain Kashmir-based politicians responsible for the miseries of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that political leaders of Kashmir Valley having vested interests have misused the funds received from the Central Government. "They swindled the money meant for the development of the State", he said and added that the youth of J&K has been facing joblessness only due to dubious character of aforesaid politicians. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister and Home Minister for revoking Articles 370 and 35A. He said the decision would prove to be a boon for the people of J&K State. He said that after repealing of aforesaid Articles of Constitution several issues marring the State have implicitly vanished and a new ray of hope has emerged among the people of the State.



Sangita Gupta expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for securing the future of children of J&K. She hailed Modi and Shah for providing due rights to the daughters of J&K, who were deprived earlier. She said people of J&K were struggling since long for abrogation of Article 370 and now after its repealing, entire Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the moment. She asserted that all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion are with the Prime Minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of the State is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," she added.

Repealing of J&K's special status will lead to overall development



Capt Prithpal Singh, a war veteran who retired in 1973, said that people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions would reap benefits of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A.

"We got real freedom on August 5, 2019 after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, as earlier we were living under slavery of Kashmir centric politicians," he said, adding that people of Jammu region were the worst sufferers and faced wrath of Kashmiri rulers.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah did a remarkable job by removing these Articles. He asserted that funds worth crores were sent to J&K for development of the State but it is unfortunate that political leaders of Kashmir Valley plundered the funds and deprived people of developmental benefits.

He alleged that the Congress Government promoted corruption and nepotism during its regime across the country.



Ashok Kumar Khajuria, a senior citizen said that people of the entire State are happy with the bold and courageous decision regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that scrapping of these Articles is a big slap on anti-national elements, who always misguided youth of the State for their personal motives.

Expressing contentment, he said that removal of contentious Articles will pave way for people of the region to enjoy all rights, which they were denied earlier. He hoped that the people of J&K will witness

unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost. "Modi and Shah have created a history which will be remembered for times to come," he added.

Grant of special status to Jammu and Kashmir has done more harm than any good over the decades. Despite whopping funds, development remained a far cry all these years, which eventually gave rise to unemployment. The government sector has been the only hope for youth, which too has reached a saturation point. There was immense need for some revolutionary steps, which stand taken by the Centre in terms of Article 370 and Article 35A. With these discriminatory provisions gone, the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir besides Ladakh are set to tread the path of overall development, which will eventually lead to lot of openings for youth to earn their livelihood.



Rajeev Charak, State BJP leader, said that long pending demand of Ladakh people has been fulfilled with carving out of two Union Territories.

He said that people of J&K will be benefitted by this move the most and hoped that after acquiring Union Territory status, the youth may not have to move out, as corporate sector will have a huge presence in this part of the country. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions. People of Ladakh would also get their due share, which they deserve," he added.

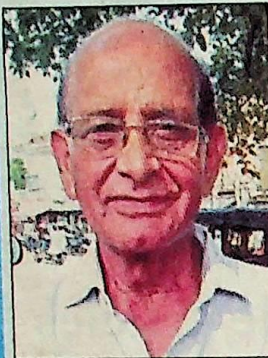
Vikas Sharma, BJP Refugee Cell leader said that entire refugee community is celebrating scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A with zeal. He said the successive governments, in J&K and the Centre, deprived refugees of citizenship rights besides other job opportunities and welfare schemes. He added that West Pakistani refugees were deprived of voting and citizenship rights and always given step-motherly treatment by successive governments. He said that after repealing of Article 370, youngsters of the refugee community can also avail all benefits being provided by the Government of India for its citizens. He appealed to the PM Modi and Amit Shah to take all necessary efforts for introducing new schemes for welfare of community youth.



Pooja Kapoor, a resident of Jammu, stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken a historic decision by nullifying Articles 370, 35A, which had given State nothing more than anxiety and poverty. She further said that the dynastic politics has ended with abrogation of above mentioned Articles and now the State will witness a new era of peace, prosperity and development. "Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh regions are now free from the discriminatory Article 370. Since this provision has been revoked, both the regions need investment from leading business players in every sector so that employment is generated for local youth and glory of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is restored with ultra modern amenities and infrastructure," she added.

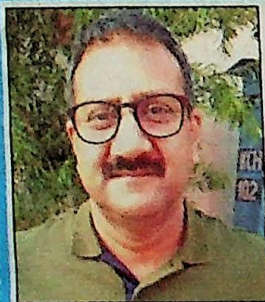


Re-organisation of J&K will end region specific hegemony



Prof Lalit Magotra, noted poet said that discrimination with people of Jammu will end with the reorganization of the erstwhile State into two Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on October 31, 2019. He said the people of Jammu have suffered a lot on all fronts, especially development, employment, distribution of funds, etc. He said with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir will also get their due rights. He said the people from across the country will come to J&K for establishing new ventures which will open new avenues for the youth of J&K.

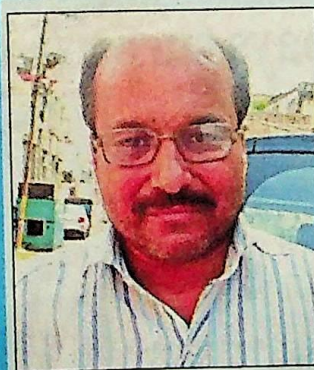
Magotra hailed the bold and courageous decision of the BJP led Government at the Centre whereby these controversial articles of the Constitution were abrogated. He said people are wholeheartedly supporting the Modi Government for its nationalist policies.



While welcoming the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, Sanjeev Jain, a resident of Jammu, said that some Kashmiri politicians have misused this controversial and temporary provision for their personal motives. He said that everything is normal in J&K in general and Jammu region in particular with no loss of life. He said that the administration, working under Governor Satya Pal Malik, is playing a vital role in maintaining law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. He said J&K people have wholeheartedly supported

scrapping of aforesaid Articles by the BJP Government. "They are hopeful that equal rights and opportunities will now be ensured", he said and added that now the daughters of J&K will not have to shun their rights even after marrying someone from outside the state. "Soon after reorganisation of J&K, the people will get equal rights at par with other citizens of India", he asserted.

The proposed re-organisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories is being seen by the Jammu intelligentsia as end to region-specific hegemony of over seven decades that left a particular segment of the population deprived of development and avenues of prosperity. There could be no better way of course correction than to scrap the special status of the State and to re-organise it as per urges and aspirations of the exploited people of Jammu and Ladakh regions.

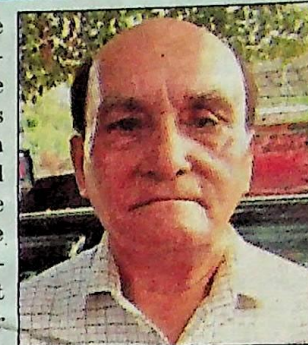


Suresh, said that Modi Government did a great job by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said that it was a historic blunder which kept Kashmir bleeding for 70 years and lakhs of people were deprived of their rights.

"Due to Article 370 Kashmiri Hindus were forced to leave their homes while thousands of security forces personnel were martyred. Today one month has passed when the Article 370 was removed", he said adding that it is a correction of historical blunder and the correction was done by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi who believes in action rather than words.

He asserted that Article 370 was like a wall and its benefit was taken only by Abdullah and Mufti families, who in turn misled the common people. "Today Kashmiris are feeling happy and the proof is that today after 30 days of abrogation of Article 370 the Naya Kashmir is fast returning to normalcy, Suresh added.

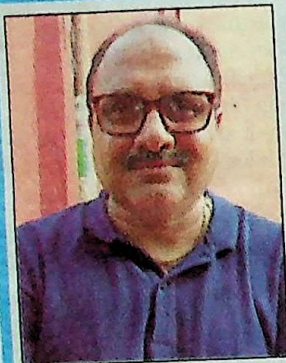
Inderjeet Kesar, writer and poet, welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A thus integrating fully Jammu and Kashmir with rest of the country. He said that Kashmir centric leaders never expected these provisions could be revoked in such a way. They used the special status as shield and never projected the sufferings of the people before the Central Government in right perspective thus forcing the Jammu region to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities. He hoped that with the re-organisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country. He expressed gratitude to Modi government for ensuring freedom to people in real sense and hoped the Jammu region will get its due as a matter of right.



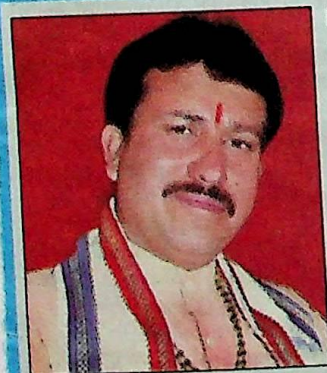
Raj Kumar Gupta, President Gau Raksha Samiti J&K, welcomed revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said the successive governments had kept masses in dark over the issue and always misused these provisions to hide their misdeeds. He said while major parts of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the abrogation of Article 370, certain persons with malafide intentions are still trying to vitiate the atmosphere by misguiding the gullible population. He said that the State has suffered a lot, both economically and emotionally, due to exploitation. Now, the time has changed and people have understood that violence in no way can be the answer to any problem, he said, adding that the people of Jammu and Kashmir must be made aware of facts and figures and should be assured that the decision will take the region to pinnacles of development.



Scrapping Art 370 will entail preservation of regional heritage, culture

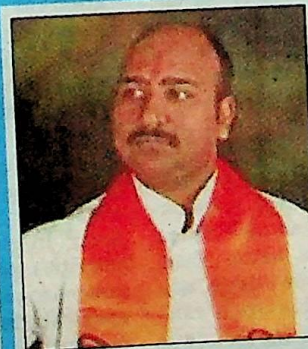


Amit Sharma, a resident of new Rehari, said that the people are proud of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking the bold step of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He said that none in the successive governments had the courage to remove the controversial Article 370. "For the past about seven decades the people have suffered a lot due to this controversial Article and their grievances remained unaddressed, but now after J&K becoming a UT, they are hopeful that all necessary steps would be taken to mitigate their sufferings besides preserving Dogra Culture and heritage," he said, asking people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grassroots level.



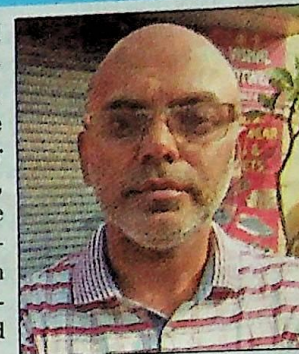
Sushil Sudan, a social activist said, "After reeling under years of discrimination and continuous rejection by valley-based politicians, people of Jammu in general and youth in particular are now feeling bit confident as amendment made by the Union Government in controversial Article 370 has invoked a ray of hope for better future among them. He said that Articles 370 and 35A were the creation of politicians who had taken this State for granted and these Articles benefited only handful of politicians at the cost of not only the poor people of Jammu and Kashmir but the people of whole of the country. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the controversial Articles 370 and 35A, and assured whole-hearted support to BJP in its stride for ensuring welfare of people.

Not only in development or other important sectors, Jammu region was always given a second consideration, giving priority to valley, by a handful of politicians who always worked only to satiate their aspirations and of their sycophants. The situation had become so grim that people were afraid of losing their cultural identity and heritage, as valley-centered policies were superimposing other regions. But with necessary amendments made in Article 370 and re-organisation of J&K into two Union Territories, people are expecting not only huge development but are quite confident regarding preservation of their centuries-old traditions and heritage.



Vikrant Kapoor, a social activist said, "In the last seventy years, the people of J&K have suffered a lot due to this controversial Article and their grievances remained unaddressed". He asserted that the people of Jammu region shall be benefitted the most by scrapping of Article 370. "Earlier, they faced discrimination in every sector at the hands of Kashmir centric politicians", he added. He asked the people of Jammu to extend full support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Amit Shah for ensuring development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Punit Chawla, a trader said that the PM Narendra Modi and HM Amit Shah have created history by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said due to this controversial Article, people of the State in general and women in particular had suffered a lot, as it led to discrimination, adding that Modi Government has taken a wise decision, which was need of the hour. He asserted the BJP government at the Centre has taken a remarkable step by abrogating these contentious Articles of the Constitution and hoped that with these decisions women of J&K in particular will get their rights. The historic decision is in the interest of nation, he said.



Aman Sharma, BJP leader said scrapping of aforesaid Articles has given a big jolt to the Kashmiri politicians who misused their constitutional power for looting the wealth of J&K. He hailed the timely decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to save the people of Jammu region from the lopsided policies of Kashmiri leaders. He expressed hope that abrogation of these Articles will pave way for the development of Jammu region. He said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters. He hailed Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu people by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A.



J&K's special status had brought miseries to Jammu, Ladakh

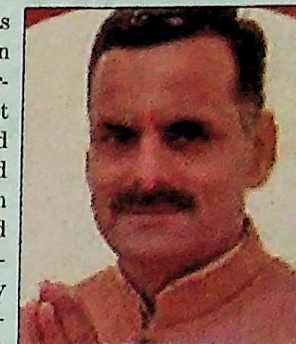


Paramjit Choudhary, an entrepreneur appreciated efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for freeing the people of Jammu from hegemony of Kashmir-centric politicians. He said that scrapping of Article 370 was a big slap on the faces of such politicians, who misguided Kashmiris for their personal motives. He hoped that after becoming a Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir will have a bright future with people getting ample scope to prosper and live a contented life.

"Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions. Now people of Ladakh would also get their due share, which they deserve," he anticipated. He urged people of Jammu and Kashmir to support Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre for ensuring development and progress of the country.

The decision with regard to repeal of special status to Jammu and Kashmir is trending on social media as also in public discourse. In Jammu and Ladakh the people are rejoicing and celebrating their freedom from the hegemony of Kashmir centric political leadership, which used Article 370 and Article 35A to protect their political fortunes by blackmailing the Centre from time to time. Repeal of various provisos of the Constitution have come as a breather to the marginalized and exploited segments of the population of erstwhile State.

Corporator Sanjay Baru said that Article 370 was a blunder, which deprived the people of Jammu on various fronts. He said that due to this controversial Article, 73rd and 74th amendments were not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. He termed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as bold and commendable step of the present government in comparison to all previous governments. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has duly acknowledged the aspirations of the people of the country who had reposed their full faith on him for scrapping these Article. He said Article 370 has been misused by the leaders of Kashmir and had created a spirit of separatism and sense of alienation and never allowed the emotional integration of Kashmir with rest of the country. Describing the scrapping of Article 370 as historic step, Baru said that this bold decision is a true tribute to late Pandit Prem Nath Dogra and all other leaders who fought for Ek Pradhan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan and sacrificed their lives.



Kapil Kapoor President Photographers Union, Jammu Province, congratulated the people of J&K over scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and said the whole country had waited for over 70 years for this moment. "Jammu and Kashmir has fully integrated with India and the historic decision of the Centre will further cement its relation with the erstwhile State, now two Union Territories.

"People of Jammu and Kashmir are feeling sense of freedom from of Kashmiri rulers after seven decades.

People are celebrating independence from the slavery of corrupt politicians of the Kashmir Valley," Kapoor said.

He added that the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are whole-heartedly welcoming scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and hoped that they will witness new era of development at the earliest.



Social activist Deepak Kumar, welcomed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, saying these were the curse for the people of J&K who got nothing but deprivation and subjugation at the hands of politicians with vested interest.

He said political leaders in Kashmir who had been spreading lies, hatred and indulging in divisive politics must reconcile to the fact and try to do mainstream politics for the simple reason that they stand rejected by progressive people of Kashmir as well. He said time has come to move on and decide about strengthening economy of new UTs now. He said history has been made by ending special status of the erstwhile state, which has ended discrimination or one-

upmanship of one region over the other two. He said that with abrogation of Article 35A justice has been done with women whose state subjects used to be cancelled after marriage and Ladakh has been given its due share.

Madhur Arora, a businessman hailed the courageous decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi by abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He said earlier there was no future for youth in the State but after scrapping of Article 370, it is likely that new avenues will be created for youth to prosper and progress. He added that Article 370 was the biggest blunder and mistake of the past which has been corrected now after 70 years by the Modi Government. He said entire India is rejoicing the moment, as Jammu and



Kashmir will also move ahead on the path of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He appealed to the PM not to forget the people of Jammu region while drawing the development profile for the region.

Scrapping Art 370 Govt's major achievement in 100 days: Javadekar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, criminalisation of instant triple talaq and amendment in a law to allow an individual to be designated as 'terrorist' were some of the major decisions taken by the Modi government in its first 100 days, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said on Sunday.

As the government completed 100 days in office in its second consecutive term, the minister also allayed fears of a slowdown, saying the fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong and there is no "panic situation" in the country.

He said that sometimes slowdown is a "cyclical process" and such a patch will not hurt the country's progress.

While Javadekar addressed a press conference here and released a booklet on the government's achievements,



Union Minister, Prakash Javadekar addressing press conference on completion of 100 days of government in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi talked about his government's works at a rally in Haryana's Rohtak.

But the Congress launched an all-out attack on the government, alleging that there had been "no development". Taking a dig at the Modi government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi "congratulated" it on 100 days of "no

development".

"Congratulations to the Modi govt on #100DaysNoVikas, the continued subversion of democracy, a firmer stranglehold on a submissive media to drown out criticism and a glaring lack of leadership, direction and plans where it's needed the most -- to turnaround our ravaged economy," he tweet-

ed.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said the Modi government is "mum" after "ruining the economy" and alleged it is trying to hide the grim situation in the country.

When asked about the criticism, Javadekar hit out at Rahul Gandhi, saying "those who are not to be seen in 90 out of 100 days, how can I react on their comment."

He said the world knows whether the government worked.

The prime minister's Independence Day speech, his speech to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Parliament, laws which have been passed, the way things have changed and decisions implemented show the government's positive intent.

"This speed, the Congress had never witnessed. Therefore, I don't have

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jammu sees ray of hope after repeal of Article 370



Dev Anand Gill, President All J&K Dalit Samaj said the members of Valmiki community had suffered a lot due to Article 370.

While appreciating the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, Gill said that Valmiki community has served the people of Jammu with a sense of commitment during the past over six decades. "The community is feeling elated over the decision of ending the special status, which had become a source of their deprivation". He added that with the landmark decision of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A they feel empowered.

Gill appealed to the Governor Satya Pal Malik to announce holiday on Valmiki Jayanti so that the community celebrates the occasion with utmost fervour.



Sumit Kerni said that Modi government did an incredible job by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said the people of Jammu region have been suffering due to the Kashmir-centric policies of successive governments for the past seven decades. He said that a new ray of hope has emerged among the people of Jammu after the abrogation of Article 370. The people are confident that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments.

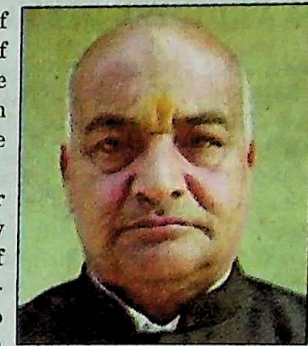
He hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Kerni asked people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grass-roots level. He said the initiative taken by the Prime Minister for repealing these Articles will be remembered for a long time.

The Jammu region is brimming with hope of better days to come after abrogation of the contentious provisions of Article 370, as also Article 35A. They feel that these provisions had deprived this region in general and the women of the entire erstwhile State in particular of their legitimate rights. The vested interests in the political system had used these provisions to their advantage and for the benefit of a particular segment of the society, which was a constant source of irritation for the people of Jammu and Ladakh regions. Now hope has taken over the despair and deprivation.

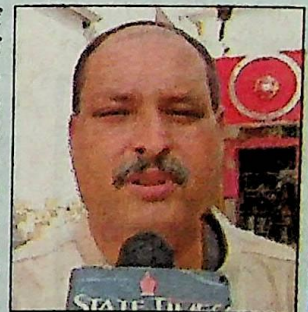


Raghav Mahajan, General Secretary Bahu Fort Development Committee (BFDC) wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of repealing Articles 370 and 35A, saying due to these anomalies the State has remained underdeveloped and people were forced to run from post to pillar for employment, medical and educational facilities, and other purposes. With Article 370 gone, the people of Jammu are hopeful that the move will usher a new era here. Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister for scrapping Article 370, he hoped that the people of Jammu region will now get more opportunities to prosper and progress. He also urged upon the government to lift ban on mobile internet services in Jammu region so that students as well as business community may not suffer. He further appealed to the government to clear chaos among the employees fraternity with the re-organisation of J&K.



Corporator Raj Kumar termed the scrapping of Article 370 as landmark decision in the history of J&K and said that the present government at the Centre has taken a bold and courageous decision by doing away with the temporary proviso of the Constitution.

Kumar sought intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the enactment of a domicile law for Jammu and Kashmir to protect the interests of Jammu people in general and educated unemployed youth in particular. "A domicile law needs to be enacted so that outsiders could be barred from participating in selections for government jobs and from buying lands and other properties of poor through distress sales. While the revocation of the pernicious separatist clause in the Constitution is being widely appreciated, the civil society and educated youth have bonafide apprehensions which need to be addressed in the larger interests of the general masses", he added.



Munish Raja, a resident, said the people of Jammu were waiting long for abrogation of Article 370. The parliamentary laws and centrally sponsored schemes initiated for overall-growth and welfare of the people remained distant from J&K due to this contentious constitutional provision, thereby making J&K an under-developed State. After repealing of Articles 370 and 35A the people are hopeful that J&K shall flourish and witness a new era of development, which they were longing for decades. He hoped the change will relieve the people from the dynastic rule of a few Kashmiri families. "Only due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu people would now get opportunities at par with other citizens of the country", he said.

Abrogation of Art 370 provisions game-changer for J&K, Ladakh



Rakesh Sharma, a resident of Jammu said that repeal of the provisions of Article 370 was the long pending demand of the Jammu people, who were deprived of their due-share in various spheres while Kashmiri politicians looted the wealth unabatedly. He said the initiative will augment industrialisation in the region thus creating ample avenues for youth in terms of jobs and entrepreneurship.

"Now after repealing of Article 370, the people are hopeful of a new-era, as huge development is expected to take place in J&K", he said, adding that youth of Jammu will also get employment avenues after re-organisation of the erstwhile State. He appealed to the Prime Minister to take adequate measures to address unemployment and other issues which the people of Jammu are facing for the past seventy years due to Kashmir-centric policies of the political executives.



Rajesh Gupta, an employee while welcoming the decision of scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, emphasized that each section of society will be benefitted with the move. He said these provisions should have been scrapped much earlier. "The Kashmir centric politicians have misused Article 370 and misguided people of the Valley particularly the youth by instigating them to indulge in stone pelting or other anti-national activities," he said and thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for satiating aspirations of the

Jammu people, who faced discrimination by successive governments in every sector. He said the common man of Jammu has got nothing with this Article except step-motherly treatment in every field including education and employment in government sector.

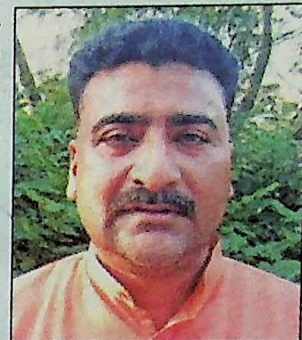
The overwhelming majority of the people in Jammu and Ladakh are elated over the scrapping of various provisions of Article 370, Article 35A and reorganisation of the State into two Union Territories. They believe that the initiative will prove a game-changer for youth with big investments coming for setting up of industries and rejuvenating corporate sector that may eventually lead to adequate opportunities of jobs for educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled work-force.



Adithya Randhawa, a student said that the historical decision of revocation of Articles 370 and 35A, and re-organisation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh is truly a game-changer for the people, especially the youth, who are grappling with unemployment due to absence of big industries and multinational business houses. He termed revoking of these contentious Articles of Constitution as 'good sign' for youngsters of J&K and hoped that now, various multinational-companies will set-up their units in Jammu and Kashmir thus tackling joblessness in a big way. He said that revocation of Article 370 has cropped

up feeling of contentment among people as they are sensing that opportunities are knocking their doors. This momentous decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre would surely prove to be a boon for youth of Jammu and Kashmir and people should thank him for this gutsy and noble gesture, he asserted.

Anil Sharma, President All J&K Panchayat Conference blamed the successive governments at the Centre for failing to remove controversial provisos of Article 370. He appreciated the Modi government for its incredible decision to scrap this Article. "By scrapping Articles 370 and 35A, the role of mediators between J&K and New Delhi has been culminated and now the Jammu region will see a new era of development as the funds released from the Centre will directly reach this region without any hindrance, he said, expressing gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for revoking Articles 370 and 35A, saying the decision would prove to be a boon for the people of J&K. He hoped that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure that centrally sponsored welfare schemes provide significant bounty to people of this region.



Vishal Gupta, a youth hailed the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and expressed gratitude to the Government of India for ending more than seventy-year domination of Kashmiri politicians in Jammu region by repealing Article 370. He termed these provisos as a political gimmick of Kashmiri politicians, who used them only for personal motives. He said repealing of special status will pave way for benefits to various sections of society comprising Gorkha, Valimiki and refugee communities living in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that due to Article 370, people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their basic rights. He hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing full rights to the people of J&K at par with other citizens of India.



Union Territory status to J&K will end discrimination



Shilpa, a resident of Jammu exuded confidence that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will resolve the unemployment crisis in Jammu and Kashmir.

She asserted that the successive governments had miserably failed to generate employment opportunities in J&K due to which some of the youth were indulging in anti-social activities.

"The successive governments in J&K gave step-motherly treatment to the Jammu people and never projected their problems before concerned quarters at the Centre. The scrapping of Article 370 was need of the hour", she said adding it will change the destiny of nationalists residing in Jammu and Kashmir.

She expressed gratitude to the Modi government for giving them freedom in real sense and hoped the people of Jammu region will get their due share soon.



Ragini Sharma, a scholar of University of Jammu, termed the abrogation of Article 370 as a boon for youth of J&K and Ladakh. She asserted that earlier, the future of J&K's youth was bleak but after this historic move of Modi-led NDA Government at the Centre a new hope has rekindled among the youngsters that they shall now have bright prospects in the two new Union Territories. She said that after scrapping of this controversial Article, a new era of development will be seen in Jammu. She said that Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the

same was diverted to other regions by the successive governments. She mentioned that all married women of Jammu and Kashmir would also get their due share, which they were denied earlier. J&K being a Union Territory has a bright future and will prosper now onwards, she anticipated.

The youth of the Jammu region is elated over reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Apart from ending psychological barriers, the move is going to end the sense of discrimination and deprivation among Jammuites, especially after revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. The youth are confident that ample avenues of employment would be available to them with influx of investment and setting up of industries, as also big businesses.



Satvir Singh, a businessman termed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as correction of historical blunder. He said that the correction was done by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi who believes in action rather than words. He said the successive governments had kept masses in dark over the issue and always misused the provisions of Articles 370 and 35A to hide their misdeeds. He said while a better part of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the abrogation of Article 370, certain persons with malafide intentions are still trying to vitiate the atmosphere by misguiding the gullible population. He hoped that with the re-

organisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country. He expressed gratitude to Modi government for ensuring freedom to people in real sense and hoped that Jammu region will get its due share soon.

Sangrezi, a student said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will bring new avenues and employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He said people are wholeheartedly supporting the Narendra Modi government for its nationalist policies and hoped that after acquiring the Union Territory status, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir will not have to move out as whole lot of businesses and industries will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively.

He said the obstacles in the way of their growth have been removed and the youth are all set to get benefitted by opportunities knocking at their doors.

He asserted that the Central Government should initiate necessary steps for development of Jammu region.



Jitendra Kumar said that Article 370 had deprived the residents of J&K of various rights as citizens of India but with removal of this controversial Article, people can now enjoy all rights like other people across the country. He maintained that entire country has witnessed huge development since independence but people in J&K were deprived of the same due to Article 370. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as huge development will take place in J&K", Kumar said, adding that unemployed youth of Jammu will also get

employment avenues after re-organisation of the erstwhile state. He urged Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to resolve unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir.



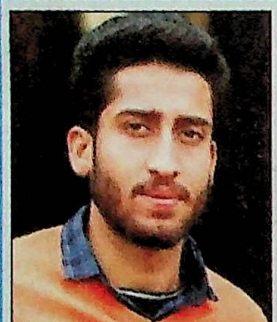
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Article 370 obstructed development, growth in J&K



Dr Pradeep, BJP leader said that the historical blunder has been rectified with the strong decision by the Prime Minister, who has impressed the world with his leadership qualities and decisive leadership. He said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A is a timely decision of the Central Government. He said that present BJP government has, in right perspective, understood the feelings of the people of Jammu region which the earlier dispensations never bothered to understand.

He also said that the successive governments never projected the sufferings of the people of this mountainous region before the Central Government thus forcing people to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A.



Anshu Sharma, college student, exuded confidence that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will open up new vistas of opportunities for the youth of Jammu. So far they were getting step motherly treatment in employment as well as educational sectors. He said the barrier of Article 370 has been removed which had emotionally and psychologically created fissures between Jammu and Kashmir and rest of the country. He hoped that this significant decision taken by Union Government will open new horizons for the younger generations, which were mere a dream for

them till date. He said now the opportunities would be available to them at par with the country. He appealed to the youth to come forward and take benefit of the schemes launched by the Modi government for welfare of people of the country.

While the support base for Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of abrogation of Article 370 is growing across the Jammu region, as elsewhere in the country, the people are realizing how adversely this provision has obstructed the growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir during the past nearly seven decades. The youth in particular are jubilant over the prospect of big industry and corporate sector making way to the two Union Territories in the months and years to come that will help in tackling unemployment problem.



Naveen Sharma, a J&K youth working in Corporate Sector at Greater Noida said that the common masses have whole-heartedly supported the move of Modi government for repealing of this controversial law.

He said that Kashmiri politicians have misused the provisions of Articles 370 and hoped that removal of the special status will bring investment and development in the upcoming two Union Territories.

He said abrogation of aforesaid Article is beginning of the rising of 'New Jammu and Kashmir', where everyone can enjoy rights without any fear or discrimination. He said that Modi government has launched welfare policies for

the weaker sections of society and hoped that the poor segments of Jammu and Kashmir will get the benefit of centrally sponsored schemes.

Advocate Bindu Sar Abrol said that the Kashmir-centric politicians have exploited the people for their personal motives under the garb of Articles 370 and 35A. He said the people of the Kashmir Valley too are happy with the abrogation of Article 370, as this has been a huge obstacle in the path of development. He said youth of J&K were forced to move towards metro cities in search of their livelihood. He said with the abrogation of these articles people of J&K will see new era of development with the reorganization of the State. He emphasized that Modi government has taken a wise decision by abrogating the Articles 370 and 35A. He appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country.



J.P. Sharma, social activist welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 saying this was detrimental to the overall interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He hoped that the scrapping of this provision will pave way for the people of this region to enjoy all the rights which they were denied earlier.

"Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions," he said and exuded confidence that people of Jammu region will witness unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost.

Sharma on behalf of Jammu people hoped that this time the Chief Minister should be from the Jammu region.



Era of befooling people by Kashmiri politicians ends with repeal of Art 370



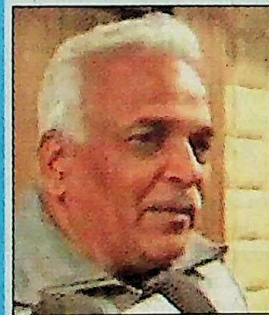
Balbir Ram Rattan, BJP leader said that people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh welcomed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that these articles had not given any benefit to common masses. He termed these articles as a political gimmick of Kashmiri politicians, who used them only for personal motives. He said that removal of Articles 370 and 35A would stop black-mailing of Kashmiri politicians. He hoped that after acquiring the Union Territory status, the youth of J&K and Ladakh will not have to move out as new universities and colleges will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking Articles 370 and 35A and hoped that the people of the State will be benefitted a lot with this step of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Tarsem Manhas, State President of Veterans India has come out in favour of the Union Government's decision on abrogation of Article 370, which granted special status to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. "I have always believed that Article 370 should be abolished. Its existence resulted into unfortunate politicisation of Kashmir issue. It is a strong move by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to abrogate Article 370. This ensured that Jammu and Kashmir enters the Indian mainstream and become eligible for getting Centre's support to lead on development front," Manhas said.

"Revoking Article 370 will be remembered forever in the annals of history as a historic moment. It's a bold decision by a bold and visionary Prime Minister. Every citizen of India is proud. Every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir will reap benefits of this in the next 10 years," Manhas added.

Reeling under years of discrimination by valley-centric politicians, who always fooled people for their personal motives, Jammu people always remained at the mercy of the God, as none from the successive state governments projected their aspirations in proper way. Jammu was always treated as a second option as Valley was always preferred in development initiatives or while getting central packages meant for overall development of J&K. The situation worsened to the level that Jammu youth started migrating to other cities in search of livelihood. Coming out as a silver lining to dark cloud, the significant decision taken by the PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah regarding abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A provided much-needed hope to Jammu people that they are also a significant part of J&K and there is still a lot for them in store.



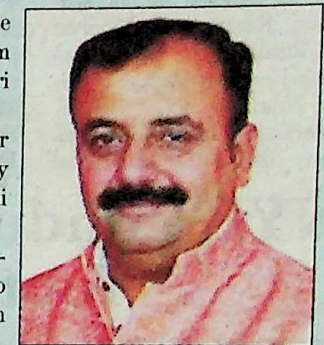
MLC Romesh Arora said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will give equal rights to various communities residing in J&K for last six to seven decades as earlier they were deprived of their basic rights. He said that common man will come to the mainstream and reap the benefits of various schemes. He said that future of Jammu people is bright after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. "I wholeheartedly welcome the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scrapping of aforesaid Articles will provide new avenues of employment to jobless and help the region to reach the pinnacle of peace and prosperity," he said.

MLC Vikram Randhawa said that the Prime minister and Home Minister had given freedom to the people of J&K from clutches of Kashmiri politicians.

He said that the demand of UT was pending for the last 70 years which has been fulfilled only after the bold and courageous decision of Modi and Shah.

He said that dearth of educational and employment opportunities in J&K forced local youth to migrate to the other parts of the country in search of their livelihood.

"Modi and Shah have created a history which will be remembered for times to come. Such step will provide a bright future to youth of Jammu and Kashmir with upcoming industrialisation with several opportunities," he added.



Deepshikha Sharma, expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for giving freedom to people of J&K from the Kashmir-centric politicians. He said that the politicians of Kashmir Valley have misused these Articles by depriving people of J&K from enjoying the fruits of development. She asserted said that the abrogation of aforesaid Articles has brought a ray of hope among the people of J&K. She said that earlier the women of J&K were deprived of their rights after getting married to someone from outside the State but after scrapping of these contentious Articles, the women of J&K will get their due share. She added that none in the successive governments had the courage to remove this controversial Article. She asked people of J&K to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grassroots level.



Hope takes over despair after repeal of Article 370



Ankush Sharma, businessman expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking a historical decision to scrap Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Valley centric leaders misused these constitutional provisions for amassing wealth by fiddling with the funds meant for development.

He said that after abrogation of Article 370, young people of Jammu and Kashmir would have a bright future with plenty of openings in big business houses available to them. He

hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming future. "Now, after scrapping of these Articles of Constitution, we are hopeful of a happy and prosperous future for our children," he observed.



Rahul Sharma, businessman said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A was the only solution to solve numerous problems especially unemployment crisis in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that unemployment is a manufactured reality and sole by-product of an incapacitated policymaking. Jammu and Kashmir Government failed to fill vacant posts in the State departments, despite J&K having highest number of unemployment ratio in the country, he said. Ironically, government jobs in J&K remained

the first preference of youth given political uncertainties and lack of private investment in the State. He said that repealing of these articles will bring new vistas of employment. He further urged the government to take serious measures for tackling drug menace.

The abrogation of various provisions of Article 370 has rekindled a new hope among people, especially those in Jammu and Ladakh region that have been at the receiving end over the decades. This special status had given rise to the element of discrimination, as Kashmir centric political leadership kept polarizing the situation by denying the people of the two regions their due share in development and employment. Now that the discrepancy has been set right, people of the entire Jammu and Kashmir besides Ladakh region expect a fair deal in every sphere.



Puneet Mahajan, BJP District Vice President, Jammu West said that after spending long years in exile and leading miserable lives in various tenements and camps, members of various communities are now hopeful of a vivid future of their wards, after repealing of Article 370 by the Prime Minister and Home Minister. He asserted that this decision has brought a ray of hope among people of Jammu as well as members of various communities including refugees, Valmiki and Gorkhas, who were earlier deprived of their basic rights due to Article 370.

Mahajan asserted that with the reorganisation of J&K State into two Union Territories, the members of these communities are feeling much more secure, as now the regions would be directly under the Centre's administration. People are welcoming the decision of Union Government, terming it as 'historic', he added.

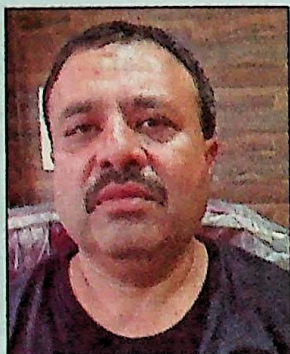
Suraj Sharma, President Trikuta Shopping Complex Jammu, termed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as the need of hour. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh have got freedom from Kashmir-centric policies. He further said that it should have been repealed much earlier as none was benefitted by Article 370. He appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take stock of the grievances of Jammu traders who are hopeful of new opportunities with implementation of Central laws in Jammu and Kashmir after reorganisation of the State. He said that this bold decision will go a long way in achieving the agenda of development and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters.



Shiv Dutt Sharma, VHP leader said the Prime Minister has taken a wise decision by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said the separatist movement in Kashmir Valley had overpowered successive governments with their anti-national activities. He said that repealing of Articles 370 and 35A is a major setback to those Kashmiri leaders, who have looted the state exchequer. He said that people of J&K were also against 'Two Flags and Two Constitutions' in J&K. He said Hindus and Muslims both wholeheartedly support PM Modi and Amit Shah for the bold decision and hope that this will bring new era of development in this part of the country.



With Art 370 gone, J&K ushers in a new era of hope, promise



Sanjay Gupta, businessman, said that the country is always on the top priority for the people of Jammu. He said that Prime Minister and Home Minister took a wise decision by lifting the controversial Articles 370 and 35A from J&K. He asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is working for the welfare of people of the country and the lifting of Articles will bring the people of J&K at par with the citizens of the country.

He asserted that the people are confident that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments. He hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.



Kamlesh Kumar (Amit), BJP District Jammu Treasurer welcomed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that the BJP government at the Centre did an unbelievable work by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. He said the people of Jammu region have been suffering due to the Kashmir-centric policies of successive governments for the past seven decades. He said that a new ray of hope has emerged among the people of Jammu after the abrogation of Article 370. He hoped that removal of

Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. "The people are confident that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments," he added.

Hope has taken over despair and desperation in Jammu and Kashmir after revocation of the temporary provision of Article 370 with people looking towards new vistas of opportunities in development, employment and fulfillment of aspirations. Jammu region is particularly jubilant over the dream coming true about total integration of the erstwhile Dogra State with Indian domain that is bound to have positive impact on the psyche of the people, who suffered deprivation at the hands of Kashmir centric political class over the years. They are not expecting any special treatment or privileges but hope to get their due as equal partners in the rechristened Union Territory.



Vivek Bangwal, a social activist said that the majority of the people in J&K State are elated over the scrapping of various provisions of Article 370, Article 35A and reorganization of the State into two Union Territories. He said the initiative will augment industrialization in the region thus creating ample avenues for youth in terms of jobs and entrepreneurship. He said the common man of Jammu has got nothing with this Article except step-motherly treatment in every sector whether education or employment in government sector. He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

Home Minister Amit Shah for revoking Articles 370 and 35A, saying the decision would prove to be a boon for the people of J&K.

Appreciating the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, **Vani Kapoor, a housewife** emphasized that the women will get most out of it.

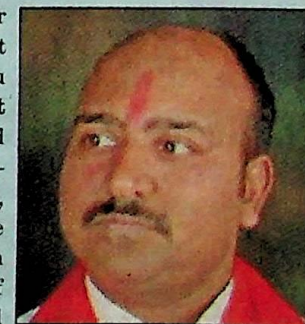
She said that earlier the daughters of J&K married outside the J&K were deprived of several rights. "Now after the abrogation of Article 370, women of J&K are feeling elated as they shall now enjoy equal status at par with other women living across the length and breadth of the country," she added.

Vani asserted that only due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu people would now get opportunities at par with other citizens of the country.



Expressing gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking care of aspirations of Jammu people by repealing Article 370, **Vikrant Kapoor, President Hindustan Shiv Sena** said that at last someone kept his words and fulfilled the promise made with Jammu people, who were earlier deceived by all successive Governments over the issue. Jammu region was always discriminated by a hand-full of political leaders, for whom Valley and personal

interests were always supreme. Now with the reorganisation of J&K into two Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh, people are hopeful that Jammu will witness a new era of unprecedented development and progress.



Scope of looting public wealth ends with repeal of Art 370



Maninder Kour, a University student hailed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking the most righteous course for clearing the seven decades old misunderstanding, which people throughout the world were carrying along about the State of Jammu and Kashmir. An error which crept in the

Constitution of India was rectified with the abrogation of Art 370. Pakistan has no right to raise its voice in this matter, she said.

"Pakistan's making noise against eroding or including any clause by India in its own constitution, has no bearing at all. Pakistan has no right to stage its claim regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

It is taking the benefit of the leniency and mercifulness of some Indian leaders who allowed Pakistan to have some portion of Jammu and Kashmir by unilaterally issuing ceasefire in 1947, which now need to be rectified", she said.

"Let it be made fully clear to Pakistan that State of Jammu and Kashmir right up to Gilgit was owned by Maharaja Hari Singh and he, out of his own will and wish handed it over to India through an instrument of accession in 1947. Pak should not forget that the illegally occupied portion of Jammu and Kashmir lawfully belongs to India which Pak should vacate honestly", she added.

Termed as a bridge between J&K and Union of India by some valley-based political leaders, the contentious Article 370, in reality, was a wall that kept development and prosperity away from J&K. This temporary provision of the constitution was tactfully used by the self-centered leaders for befooling gullible people besides acquiring huge wealth by open loot of public exchequer, as there was no check due to Article 370. Now after necessary amendments in Article 370 and abrogation of Article 35A, people are confident that J&K will leap forward on path of development like other States as the funds meant for people will be used for people.



Stating that bright days are ahead for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, **Tejinder Kour**, a scholar termed the decision of abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir a bold and courageous step. She said that the bold and decisive move by the Centre would not only ensure the development of Jammu and Kashmir but would also grant dignity to people of the State. She further reiterated that weaker sections would be real beneficiaries of the initiatives taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This step will prove as a game-changer for youth with big investments coming for setting up of industries and rejuvenating corporate sector that may eventually lead to adequate opportunities of jobs for educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled work-force," she said, adding that youth have high hopes from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dolly Chandhoke, a school teacher hailed the bold decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister and BJP National President Amit Shah to abrogate notorious Articles 370 and 35A. She said that the people of Jammu region living in J&K bore the brunt of aforesaid Articles for decades together resulting in halt of desired progress of the people. She blamed the Congress, NC, PDP and other Valley based parties for the continued mischief leading to the continued neglect of the region and its people. She made a fervent appeal to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the quick implementation of all laws favouring the common masses in the newly created Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.



Om Parkash Gupta, trader said that Article 370 had contributed nothing for the development of Jammu region. The Kashmir centric politicians have misused Article 370 and misguided people of the Valley, particularly youth by instigating them to indulge in stone pelting or other anti-national activities, he added. He said that the common man in Jammu got nothing from this Article except step-motherly treatment in every sector whether education, employment or development. He appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to address unemployment and other issues which the people of Jammu are facing for past more than seventy years due to Kashmir-centric policies of the political executives.



Revocation of special status to J&K rekindles hope among youth



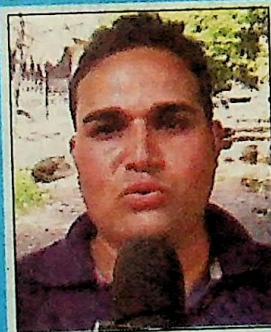
Pradeep Singh Manhas, a social activist said that people of Jammu are hopeful that now the region will get equal share after reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, post abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that Article 370 had deprived the residents of J&K of various rights as citizens of India but with removal of this controversial Article, people can now enjoy all rights like other people across the country. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as huge developments will take place in J&K", Manhas said, adding that youth of Jammu will also get huge

employment avenues. He said that earlier J&K lack good private universities due to the controversial article and the people have to spend heavy amounts for providing good education to their children, but now after repealing of Article 370, several medical and engineering institutes will be established in J&K, thereby saving the hard-earned money of people. He also appealed to people to take all necessary measures for making J&K corruption-free.



Ranjan Bala, a resident of Jammu, termed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A a victory for people of Jammu who were always treated as second class citizens in their own state. "Political leaders of Kashmir Valley misguided the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their personal motives and never projected their problems before concerned quarters. The scrapping of Article 370 was the need of the hour", she said, adding that lifting of these Articles will change the destiny of nationalists residing in Jammu and Kashmir. She expressed gratitude to the Modi government for giving freedom to Jammu people in real sense and hoped that people of Jammu region will get their due share soon.

The revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir has rekindled hope among the people, especially the youth, who feel that the move could turn out to be a game-changer for their life in terms of jobs and avenues to prosper. While investment by big businesses and industrial giants can generate employment, the growth in productivity can ease the life of people in general. Jammu region, as also the bifurcated region of Ladakh, have all the more reason to rejoice as these suffered adversely due to Kashmir centric policies for nearly seven decades.



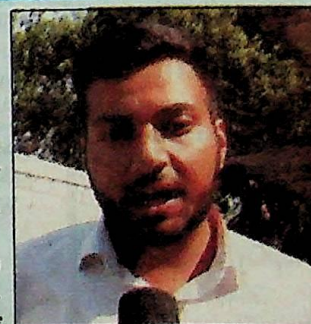
Jeevan Kumar, a resident of Udhampur, said that the significant decision taken by Union Government by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A will open new horizons for younger generations, which was mere a dream for them till date. Kashmiri politicians misused provisions of Articles 370 for their political business, but now people are hopeful that the removal of special status will bring investment and development in the upcoming two Union Territories, he added. Kumar further said abrogation of Article 370 is beginning of rising of 'New Jammu and Kashmir', where everyone will enjoy his rights without any fear or discrimination. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for fulfilling aspirations of Jammu by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A.

Jitender Singh Sahni, a social activist said that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A were big milestones for unity and integrity of India. Lauding Modi Government for scrapping the special status of J&K within 75 days of coming into power in its second term, he slammed successive governments for not doing it the same during their 72 years of rule because of 'vote-bank greed'. Asserting that scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir will ensure complete development of the state, he added that State lacking development because of Article 370. He stated that the revocation of provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution would develop Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, and make the region free of terrorism.



Omar Malik termed Article 370 as a temporary provision of the Constitution of India, which was abolished after seventy years due to political leaders having vested interests. He asserted that youth of Jammu region is elated over reorganisation of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

He said that after the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A, all central laws will be directly applicable in J&K. He said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will bring new avenues and employment opportunities for Jammu and Kashmir. Now the youth have no need to leave J&K in search of livelihood as upcoming industrialisation will give ample job opportunities to youth, he added.



Jammu hopes end to deprivation, discrimination



Wasim Jalal, BJP leader said that Article 370 was a curse for the people of J&K. He said the successive governments of NC, Congress and PDP befooled people of the State and misused the provisions of Articles 370 and 35A to their advantage. He said that Article 370 gave nothing to the Muslim community, who continue to remain socially, educationally and economically backward. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have done a great job by repealing Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. Now after repealing of Article 370, the

people of Jammu are hopeful of a new era and hope that monumental development will take place across the region. Moreover, unemployed youth of Jammu will also get job avenues after re-organisation of the State.



Ritesh Gupta, a businessman, said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered a lot due to this contentious Act and their grievances remained unaddressed, but now after becoming a UT with the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, they are hopeful that Modi government will take all necessary steps to mitigate their sufferings. He further said that Modi Government has taken a wise decision, which was the need of hour. "PM Narendra Modi and HM Amit Shah have created history. The historic decision is in the interest of nation. Understanding pain of people of Jammu, Modi fulfilled his promise. We are very

much thankful to him for the landmark decision," he said, adding that the government should take steps to promote tourism in Jammu and to make it an independent tourist destination.

With the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh and in the wake of abrogation of the provisions of Article 370, hope has overtaken despair among the silent majority of people. The Jammu region in particular is brimming with hope of end to the decades old discrimination and deprivation inflicted by Kashmir centric political executives. They want fair deal to all, irrespective of region and religion. The overwhelming response to the August 5 measures by the Centre is that development will get impetus and avenues of employment would be in abundance with the growth of industry and corporate sector in both the Union Territories.



Rajan Gupta, a businessman hoped that revocation of Articles 370 and 35A would solve unemployment crisis in the erstwhile State. He said the previous governments have failed in tackling unemployment. He welcomed the statement of Governor Satya Pal Malik announcing 50,000 jobs in Jammu and Kashmir and hoped that Jammu region would get its due share. He said that various State governments of the country are eager to invest in J&K which will help in ending unemployment.

Swatika Gupta, a student welcomed the timely decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A.

With the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, the people of J&K are feeling much more secure as things have now gone under Central administration. She hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming time.

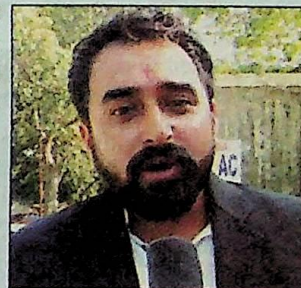
She said that this bold decision will go a long way for achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters. She expressed hope that abrogation of these Articles will pave way for the development of Jammu region.



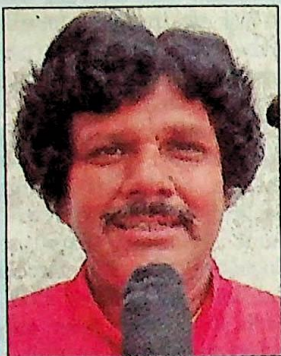
Daksheesh Sharma, State Vice President Jammu Joint Students Federation said that Prime Minister and Home Minister took a bold and wise decision by scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister and Home Minister, he asserted that all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of caste, creed and religion are with the Prime Minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population is thankful to Narendra Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," he added.

"Jammu and Kashmir being a Union Territory has a bright future and will prosper from now onwards", he said.



End of Art 370, start of new era in Jammu



Rajinder Kumar, a teacher said that Modi government succeeded in giving freedom to people of J&K who were facing step-motherly treatment in their own State due to Kashmir-centric policies of Kashmiri leaders for last 70 years. He said that Kashmir-centric leaders never expected these provisions could be revoked in such a way.

"They used the special status as shield and never projected sufferings of the people before the Central Government in right perspective thus foregoing Jammu region to reel under deprivation and

dearth of facilities," he said and hoped that after re-organisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring development projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country.



Kirti Gupta, a student hailed timely decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for saving rights of daughters of J&K.

"Earlier, the daughters of J&K were kept deprived of their rights on getting married to someone residing out of J&K. With abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir will now enjoy equal rights at par with other States of the country," she said adding that people from across the country will come to J&K for establishing new ventures, thereby opening new job avenues for youth of J&K. She appealed to people of Jammu and

Kashmir to come forward and extend all possible support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah so that the new Jammu and Kashmir can be developed on modern lines.

After remaining deprived of various benefits guaranteed by the Constitution of India and facing dearth of various facilities enjoyed by residents of other States, Aug 5, 2019 came as a new dawn of hope for Jammu people when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah created history by making necessary amendments in Article 370 and repealing Article 35A besides reorganising J&K into two Union Territories, J&K and Ladakh. Now, after Centre's taking-over the reins of administration, people are hopeful of a new era of equitable development and growth, never seen before in the regions.



Arzoo Anand, a student anticipated that mistakes committed by the successive governments would be rectified by the Modi Government after reorganisation of the State post scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A.

She said that unemployment was at peak due to indifference shown by the previous regimes but all eyes are now on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who can resolve the crisis.

She hoped that the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, with regard to abrogation of

aforesaid Articles of the Constitution, will provide new opportunities to youth besides ensuring suitable jobs.

She further said that people of J&K are wholeheartedly supporting Modi Government for its nationalist policies.

Tanvisha Sharma, a student said that Modi Government did a great job by scrapping Articles 370 and 35A. She asserted that Article 370 was just like a wall and youth faced a lot of inconvenience due to this controversial Article. She hoped that equal rights and opportunities will now be ensured to the youth of the State and now the daughters of J&K will not have to shun their rights even after marrying someone from outside the state. She appreciated the bold and courageous decision of BJP led Government at the Centre whereby these contentious Articles of the Constitution were abrogated. She hoped that with re-organisation of J&K, Jammu will witness a new era of development and prosperity.



Shruti, a student said that J&K has now become an integral part of the country after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. She hoped that post abrogation of Article 370, Jammu will be developed as a Smart City and people of Jammu and Kashmir will get all benefits under various central sponsored schemes. "Some politicians used the special status as a shield for filling their pockets without taking care of people and their needs. Due to step-motherly treatment given to Jammu, people of the region always felt neglected and discriminated on every sector," she said, adding that after October 31, Jammu and Kashmir will get a Union Territory status. She further appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure that Jammu becomes a Smart City in real sense with all latest infrastructure and facilities.



Sheikh's PSA snake is now biting his son

■ AHMED ALI FAYYAZ

SRINAGAR: When the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA) was passed in the State Legislature in April 1978, many in the opposition either ignored it or offered merely some feeble resistance. But Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah was fiercely confronted by then Janata Party MLA Abdul Gani Lone. Lone debunked Sheikh's assertion that the 'draconian law' would be invoked only against the timber smugglers.

Ironically, forty-one-years later, none other than the government of the Janata Party's descendant, BJP, is ruling at the Centre with the President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir and the Governor's administration on Sunday, September 16, has detained Sheikh's successor son, Farooq Abdullah, under PSA. Eighty-three-year-old Farooq, has been J&K's Chief Minister in 1982-84,

1987-90 and 1996-2002. Several times he has served as a member of the Indian Parliament-Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha-while also functioning for a term as a union Cabinet Minister.

Even as Farooq has not been described as a "threat to security and sovereignty of India", and the main ground of his detention in the PSA order is the State's apprehension that his activities could disturb the public order, he has been confined under the same law that has been slapped on scores of the separatist leaders, lawyers and businessmen in August and hundreds of terrorists, stone-pelters and separatists in the past.

The decision to detain Farooq under PSA-for the first time a former Chief Minister or an MP in India-was sequel to the Tamil Nadu politician Vaiko's petition seeking reasons and grounds of the National Conference (NC) patron's confinement at his home

Farooq has 'tremendous potential' to create public disorder: PSA order

SRINAGAR: Statements mobilising people against the state and the "tremendous potential" to create public disorder in the Valley are among the charges listed against former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who has been booked under the Public Safety Act.

The 81-year-old Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, under detention since August 5 when the Centre revoked the state's special status, has also been accused of making speeches glorifying terrorists and separatists.

The PSA order against Abdullah, accessed by PTI, cites seven instances from 2016 onwards when he spoke in favour of the separatist Hurriyat Conference and terror groups.

Abdullah, the first chief minister to be booked under the stringent PSA, was arrested on Monday under the PSA and his Gupkar Road residence was declared as a jail.

The National Conference chairman and three-term chief minister has been booked under the 'public order' provision ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

in Srinagar since August 5. On that eventful day, Articles 370 and 35A were scrapped and J&K broken into two Union Territories (UTs). Apparently the government had to create some justification for the unprecedented detention of

J&K's highest profile mainstream politician.

A former Law Secretary in a conversation with STATE TIMES recalled how one MLA from the opposition, around the year 2010, brought in an amendment seeking

repeal of PSA's section 10. According to a provision, courts had no power to quash a PSA detention order even if none of the five stipulated grounds was relevant. Omar Abdullah's NC-Congress coalition defeated the amendment, saying that it would be a boon for terrorists and anti-national elements. Subsequently though section 10(A) was incorporated. It says that courts would uphold the detention even if only one of the five grounds was valid.

Even as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi, would be waiting for an explanation from the Chief Justice of J&K High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, to learn whether the petitioners had any difficulty in approaching the courts in Srinagar, a bunch of petitions, including that of Vaiko's, could end after the government's declaration that Farooq had been detained under PSA.

On Farooq's behalf, two petitions-one by his daughter and son-in-law and another jointly by Lok Sabha members Hasnain Masoodi and Mohammad Akbar Lone, had been already filed in J&K High Court. As per an order in one petition, Farooq's daughter was allowed to meet her father and provide him with medicines. Another order permitted Masoodi and Lone to meet their party chief.

Masoodi, a former judge of J&K High Court, and Lone, an advocate, were cautiously proceeding on the legal course, knowing well that their optics had a limit. For them, two factors clear enough: That the habeas corpus petitions filed on behalf of the fresh PSA detainees like senior advocates Mian Abdul Qayoom and Nazir Ahmad Ronga and businessmen Mubeen Shah and Yasin Khan, were nowhere in sight to fetch them any relief; and, that courts had very ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Revocation of special status will lead to emergence of Naya J&K



Raghav Chopra, a youth said that abrogation of Article 370 has rekindled a new hope among people, especially those living in Jammu and Ladakh regions, which remained at the receiving-end over decades.

He asserted that repealing of Articles 370 and 35A will open new vistas of avenues for people of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier the people of Jammu and Kashmir have not enough opportunities due to the controversial articles, he said, adding that entire Jammu and Kashmir has profoundly welcomed the decision taken by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking step a historic step. "Now, after scrapping of these contentious Articles, we are hopeful of a happy and prosperous future for our children," he said.



Atul Byotra, a businessman said that none could diagnose correct problem of Jammu and Kashmir for last 72 years. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi proved to be a specialist doctor for this cancerous disease and successfully operated it thereby saving lives of millions," he said.

"The flock of hawks, which continuously relished feast during the long period of seven decades, has now been identified and provided the right place. Jammu and Kashmir, because of its special status, had been getting lion's share in Central Budget for upliftment of poor and needy but the same remained

confined to limited hands and poor continued to suffer," he said. With the abrogation of Article 370, the people have seen the light of the day and are hopeful of a bright future ahead, he maintained.

Revocation of Article 370 provisions, granting special status to erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State, will ultimately pave the way for a new era of progress, development and satiation of aspirations without discrimination. Though a Union Territory, yet Jammu and Kashmir will emerge as a new entity which will be integral to Indian ethos and central to its essence of inclusiveness. The day is not far when Valley will yet again bloom like a garden of flowers of different colours and varieties. It will be land of Sufis and Saints and not that of fundamentalists, who believe in hate and intolerance. The overwhelming support to the decision of the Centre continues to pour in from varied segments of society in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.



Mohit Tockoo, a teacher said that Article 370 brought a feeling of alienation among people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A will give equal benefits to people of J&K at par with other citizens living in other parts of the country. He said that its scrapping will invite multinational companies in the State to establish their units, which will help in resolving the unemployment crisis. Ironically, government jobs in J&K remained the first preference of youth given political uncertainties and lack of private investment in the State, he asserted, adding that repealing of these articles would open up new vistas of employment.

Urvashi Gupta, a resident of Jammu termed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A as the need of hour, giving its credit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. She further said that it should have been repealed much earlier as none was benefitted by it. Being a woman, I am hopeful that such decisions would prove beneficial for daughters of J&K, who were earlier deprived of various benefits due to provisions of Article 370, she added. She further said that young people of Jammu and Kashmir would have a bright future with plenty of options available for them in big business houses. She hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming future.



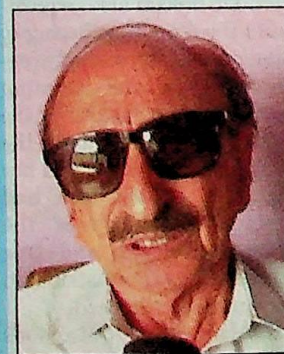
Parveen Sharma, an academican, said that abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has brought a ray of hope among people of Jammu, who were victims of the wrong policies of successive governments in the State. He said that scrapping of these Articles will give relief to various communities including refugees, Valmiki and Gorkhas, who were earlier deprived of even basic rights due to Article 370. He maintained that after reorganisation of J&K State into two Union Territories, the members of the aforesaid communities would feel much secure as they will be able to get rights at par with other citizens of the country. He said that this bold decision will go a long way in achieving the agenda of development and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters.



Revocation of special status to J&K boon, not bane



Rajiv Mahajan, a businessman, while welcoming the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, urged upon the government to take adequate measures to extend all sorts of benefits to the business community of Jammu and Kashmir after the reorganization of the State. He demanded that the toll-tax collected by Jammu and Kashmir Government at Lakhanpur entry point into the State should be abolished. He said the collection of toll tax at Lakhanpur on goods defeats the very purpose of 'One Nation, One Tax' after the implementation of GST in the country. He said that the people of J&K in general and business community in particular have high hopes from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah and hoped that the business community of J&K would receive whole-hearted support from the Central Government.



Gouri Shankar, a senior citizen said Article 370 was a temporary provision of the constitution of the India. He said that Prime Minister and Home Minister took a wise decision by lifting the controversial Articles 370 and 35A from J&K. He asserted that the people are confident that Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments.

He hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh which will give opportunities to the youth of J&K who are presently the victim of hollow policies of successive governments of J&K. He said abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will give exposure to the State which will be fruitful for the youth of J&K.

Notwithstanding the opposition by few Valley-based politicians over revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir, the people of the Jammu and Ladakh regions see the August 5 measures as boon rather than bane. While the Ladakh region will get its long cherished desire of Union Territory status fulfilled, the Jammu region will have to settle down with the Valley as a Union Territory too but with a difference. The people of Jammu see the new arrangement as an end to the nightmarish era of subjugation and discrimination. They are eagerly looking for new avenues and opportunities that hold promise for generations to come in a conducive atmosphere of fair-deal something the past over three generations missed due to Kashmir centric policies of the political class.



Rajesh Bhasin, Media Secretary VHP, while welcoming the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A, asked youth to come forward and contribute in making J&K a developed State. "Youth represent the most dynamic segment of the population and are the future of the Nation. India is one of the youngest nations in the world. About 65 per cent of India's population is under 35 years of age. The focus of the government is on youth-led development. The youth should be active drivers and not merely the passive recipients of development," he said and appealed to the PM Modi to extend full support to the youth of J&K who were deprived of their due share due to anti-youth policies of the successive government in J&K.

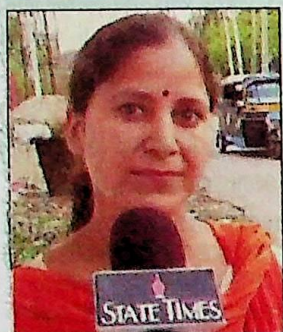
Welcoming abrogation of Article 370 in erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir, **Bunty Kumar, a shopkeeper** expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for taking the significant decision on repealing the contentious Article 370, which was the main cause behind miseries of people in the region. "People from all walks of life, irrespective of their caste, colour or religion were befooled for last more than seven decades by some political executives in the name of Article 370. The main motto of these politicians was just to siphon huge funds meant for the development of State and its people", he said. "With removal of Articles 370 and 35A and Reorganisation of J&K into two Union Territories, people are hopeful that decades long spell of discrimination and step-motherly treatment will end with beginning of a new era of unprecedented development and progress in J&K.



Sunil Gupta, President Ex-Central Paramilitary Forces Welfare Association appreciated Modi government for providing freedom to the people of Jammu and Kashmir from the Kashmir-centric politicians. He said the people of Jammu region have been suffering due to the Kashmir-centric policies of successive governments for the past seven decades. He said that a new ray of hope has emerged among the people of Jammu after the abrogation of Article 370. He hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Gupta stated that the people are confident that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments.



'Unbelievable: It happened in our lifetime'



Aarti Sharma, a resident of Jammu said abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will bring justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are facing severe problems due to the terrorism and rampant corruption. She said that the successive governments had promoted only corruption and looted the wealth of the State. She said funds to the tune of crores of rupees were earmarked time and again to ensure development of J&K but the Kashmir-centric leaders brazenly misused the money and hampered the development process. She asserted that after 70 years of Independence various states of India were developed on modern lines but J&K remained where it was during 1947. She appreciated the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for repealing Article 370 and hoped that the decision will propel region to prosperity.



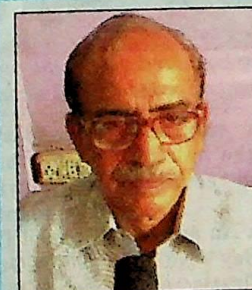
Somu Bhat, a youth, hailed the decision of the Central Government with regard to repeal of the Articles 370 and 35A and giving freedom to the people of Jammu and Ladakh from the clutches of Kashmir-centric leaders.

He asserted that these Articles had contributed nothing in the development of Jammu and Kashmir and rather deprived the people of State from enjoying their basic rights.

He said that the common man in Jammu got nothing from this Article except step-motherly treatment in every sector whether education, employment

or development. He said after the repealing of these Articles people are hopeful that multi-national companies will venture out in Jammu and Kashmir and open new vistas of opportunities including plentiful jobs for the youth.

Jubilant over revocation of Article 370 provisions, granting special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, the common people in Jammu and Ladakh regions are wondering such a development taking place in their lifetime. Having suffered discrimination and deprivation over past nearly seven decades, the common belief is that complete integration of J&K with rest of the country will prove beneficial for the people, irrespective of religion, caste or colour. They feel that the temporary measure had empowered just one segment of the State, which used these constitutional provisions to their advantage. But the scenario has drastically changed now, which will witness the people getting empowered in real sense of term.



Vijay Kumar Pargal, a senior citizen said the revocation of Article 370 and 35A will usher lots of opportunities for the people of J&K. He said that the people of Jammu are hopeful of creation of New Jammu after repeal of this contentious Article of Constitution. He said the Kashmir-centric politicians had looted the wealth and State exchequer for their personal motives. He said that with the repealing of Article 370, our children who are working outside the State may come back with new opportunities being available here. He hoped that future of J&K

youth will become secure with this decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Jatin Sachdev, a businessman emphasised that the decisive move by the Centre would not only ensure development of Jammu and Kashmir but also grant dignity to people.

He reiterated that weaker sections would be real beneficiaries of the initiatives taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He maintained that this step will prove as a game-changer for youth with big investments coming for setting up of industries and rejuvenating corporate sector that may eventually lead to adequate opportunities of jobs for educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled work-force.

He asserted that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Varun Pandoh, a builder by profession, hoped that the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A will address the grievances of business community. He said that business community has faced numerous problems due to hollow promises and failed policies of successive governments in the State. He asserted that this temporary provision of the constitution was tactfully used by the self-centered leaders for befooling gullible people besides acquiring huge wealth by indulging in open loot of public exchequer as there was no one to put a check on them due to Article 370. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to address issues of business community, unemployment and other issues which the people of Jammu are facing for the past more than 70 years due to Kashmir-centric policies of the political entities.



'J&K reorganisation will lead to overall development in organised manner'



Kewal Krishan, a retired bank manager said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has ended the special status of the elite families of Jammu and Kashmir, which had been directly or indirectly ruling the state for the last seven decades. He said the people of Jammu region were living the life of slavery in their own state due to this controversial article. "Besides, several central laws were not implemented in J&K and if we compare J&K with other states of the country, it was much backward with no revenue generation", he maintained. He said the youth had to move to other states to get higher education. He said since the Narendra Modi has took over the reins of Prime Minister's office, the country is on the path of development and is breaking all records of development. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of PM Modi and hoped that new Union Territory will bring new era for the people of J&K.



Anil Sharma, a trader termed the abrogation of the Article 370 as a historic decision by the government of India. He said that the Article 370 should have been revoked much earlier as it has deprived people of Jammu region from the benefits of development as well as industrialisation. "It will bring permanent normalcy in troubled state and usher a new era of development in the State," he said. He demanded constitutional measures on the pattern of the neighbouring Himachal Pradesh to ensure job security of locals and to protect their cultural identity. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the Articles 370 and 35A and assured whole-hearted support to the BJP in its stride to ensure welfare of people of the country.

Hoping for restoration of the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir once the situation is completely normalised the people of the erstwhile State are hopeful that the ensuing reorganisation into two Union Territories will pave the way for overall development in an organised manner. They say the element of appeasement has taken toll of the Jammu and the Ladakh regions over the years since independence and once a conscious decision to restructure the State has been taken, a new hope about equitable opportunities of development and share in employment has rekindled among the people. Overwhelming majority is elated over the prospect of end to the special treatment to a particular segment of society at the cost of deprivation to vast mass of population. They are hopeful of better days in coming times.



Sankul Gupta, a businessman said that in the name of special status, the dynasty rule of some families in Kashmir Valley had made the entire state their hostage and subjected people of Jammu to the injustice and discrimination in every sphere of life, including development, employment and business. "With the scrapping of these Articles, the people of Jammu are happy and hoping that their children will get suitable employment in J&K itself", he said, adding that it is also expected that region will see rapid phase of industrial growth and business shall also become more bountiful post abrogation of Article 370. He said earlier there was no future of our children here and they had to migrate to the metro cities for earning livelihood.

Corporator Mohinder Kumar said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a very strong ruler and a man of words. He said PM did what he promised to his countrymen. He hailed his heart and mind that he rectified the constitution by removing the clauses which destroyed the harmony among regions. Another discriminatory decision by the initial rulers which was done during delimitation also needs to be rectified before the ensuing assembly elections, he maintained. He further said that the special status given to Jammu and Kashmir was not in the interest of common masses but only a source for politicians to make their fortune. "A section of politicians made people believe that Kashmir is an international issue as if Maharaja's instrument of accession was unauthentic. The abrogation of Art 370 has not only been hailed by the common man but also by the leaders of Kashmir itself with patriotic thinking and vision", he said.



Rajan Bhan, a resident of Jammu said the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and J&K's integration with the rest of the country has created an enabling system to make a big push for development, good governance and increased Union government spending. He said such controversial Article should have been revoked much earlier. He appealed to the Prime Minister and Home Minister to take all possible steps to bring Jammu and Kashmir at par with other states of the country. He hoped that new Jammu and Kashmir should progress and touch new heights under the dynamic leadership of PM Modi. "Articles 370 and 35A had only given separatism, nepotism and massive corruption. These Articles were used as a weapon by anti-national elements to incite passions. This is the reason that in the last three decades, 42,000 people died and families devastated," he added.



Purging of Article 370 to end discrimination with Jammu



Advocate Monish Chopra hoped that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will remove discrimination being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the last 70 years. He also hoped that after giving the Union Territory status to J&K, BJP led Government at the Centre would take all adequate measures to meet out the aspirations of the people. He said that Article 370 had not given any benefit rather it kept the people of Jammu region on back-foot on all fronts.

He said that the decision of scrapping of Article 370 will allow people from across the country to invest in J&K which will bring a ray of hope among the dejected population. Expressing satisfaction, he said that removal of these Articles will pave way for the women of this region to enjoy all the rights which many of them were denied earlier.

Revoation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir is seen as a way forward to addressing the so-called political issues, as also giving a boost to economic activities in the erstwhile State, which is getting bifurcated into two Union Territories on October 31. Article 370 had not only obstructed the investors to set up industries and big businesses here but also caused psychological barriers between the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the compatriots across the country. It was a shield for vested interests in politics to cover up their misadventures and wrong doings by creating the bogey of merger, conditional accession and what not. While Ladakh will flourish as a separate UT, the people of Jammu will enjoy the benefits of development and economic measures as equal partners in the new UT of J&K.



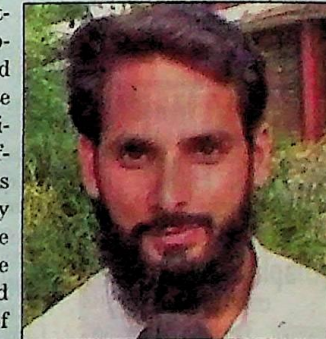
Tarun Gupta, an employee asserted that the removal of Articles 370 and 35A will pave way for the people of Jammu region to enjoy all the rights which they were denied earlier. He asserted that Article 370 was a temporary provision and it could have been removed much earlier. He said that the common people suffered a lot due to anti-Jammu policies of the Kashmir centric politicians. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions," he said and hoped that people of Jammu region will witness unprecedented growth and the region will get economic as well as educational boost. He said that the youth are all set to get benefitted by upcoming opportunities.

Sushil Sudan, social activist hoped that development will get impetus and avenues of employment would be in abundance with the growth of industry and corporate sector in both the Union Territories, after the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A. He said the successive governments of NC, Congress and PDP befooled the people of the State and misused the provisions of Articles 370 and 35A to their advantage. He said that Article 370 gave nothing to the people of Jammu region, who continue to remain socially, educationally and economically backward.

Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of new era and hope that monumental development will take place across the region. Moreover, unemployed youth of Jammu will also get avenues after re-organisation of the State.



Advocate Arun termed the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A a good sign for the people of J&K who earlier were subjected to discrimination in the hands of Kashmir centric politicians. He said from October 31, 2019 onwards, Jammu and Kashmir State will be bifurcated into Union Territories and all the Central laws will be directly applicable here. He urged the government to provide assistance to the legal fraternity in terms of law books so that they may not face any inconvenience. "After the abrogation of Art 370 and creation of Union Territory, the youths will not have to move out as new universities and colleges will be established here and joblessness shall be tackled effectively by the corporate sector", he maintained adding that the abrogation of these Articles will change the destiny of nationalists residing in Jammu and Kashmir.



Zabir Shah, a resident of Rajouri appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He urged PM to take appropriate measures to resolve the unemployment crisis in the state. He said that youth are suffering due to hollow policies of the previous governments which have been miserably failed to solve the problems faced by the youth of the State. He hoped that after the reorganization of the State, the youth would get their due share and new vistas of avenues. He appealed to the Prime Minister to make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country.

With Art 35A gone, domicile like options need to be introduced

Sukhdev Singh, a social activist, hailed the historic decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for purging the Articles 370 and 35A, granting special status to Jammu and Kashmir and dealing with state subject laws respectively.



He said, "It's a universal truth that Jammu people have faced discrimination for the past 70 years and were forced to live like slaves in their own State only because of controversial Article 370 and had also faced prejudice of Kashmir-centric politicians in every sphere.

He said after the reorganisation of J&K state, both the Union Territories will be developed with equal distribution of funds and employment opportunities for the youth.

He hoped the Union Government will introduce a domicile-like option to ensure justice to people of Jammu in getting government jobs and also to protect their properties.

He also urged the BJP led Government at the Centre for carrying out a delimitation exercise for getting more seats for Jammu region before the conduct of Assembly elections in J&K.

Enthused over recent measures taken by the Centre with regard to revocation of special status and reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir, the people of Jammu want effective steps for preserving the distinct culture of the erstwhile State. They are pleading for Himachal Pradesh like domicile laws so as to protect the rights of people on their properties and jobs. This, they feel, will go a long way in further cementing and promoting national integration. The people of Jammu are particularly happy over breaking the shackles of subjugation unleashed by Kashmir-centric political executives.



Sumit Sethi said Article 370 was on obstacle in the development of the State and root cause of turmoil in Kashmir due to rise of separatism and terrorism. Article 370, a temporary transitional provision, was the biggest injustice done with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, while the Article 35A was a constitutional blunder which got into the Constitution through backdoor without the consent of Parliament. He said in the past funds received from the Centre were not utilised for the welfare of the people and development of J&K but went down the drain over the years. He said people of J&K have understood that with the annulling of Article 370 their future has now become safe and from now onwards they will live a happy life.

Sahil Gupta, a youth, said that interests of local youth and cultural identity of Dogras must be protected under the new arrangement by introducing certain constitutional measures on the pattern of neighbouring State viz Himachal Pradesh so that flood gates should not be opened for land mafia and non-locals. He described the abrogation of Article 370 as historic decision by the Central Government which will bring normalcy in the trouble-torn Kashmir and usher a new era of development. He said that abrogation of Article 370 has ended the special status of certain prominent families of Kashmir, which had been directly ruling the State and blackmailing the Centre for the last over seven decades.



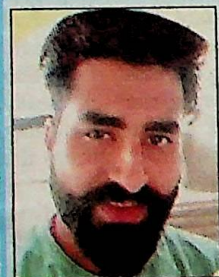
Kanan Kapoor, a student expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for securing the future of children of J&K. She hailed Modi and Shah for providing due rights to the daughters of J&K, who were deprived of these due to Article 35A. She said people of J&K were struggling since long for abrogation of Article 370 and now after its repealing, entire Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions are celebrating the moment. She asserted that all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion are with the Prime Minister. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population of J&K is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand," she added.



Abrogation of Article 370 is like dream come true



Sanjay Kumar, a resident of Jammu said, "With the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A, Jammu and Kashmir has now become a conflict-free region where politicians with vested interests can no longer blackmail the central government on one or the other issue". He said the people of Jammu region were leading a miserable life for the past 70 years as they have all along been denied their basic rights. In every sector, the Jammuites faced discrimination and were considered as second class citizens whereas preference was always given to a particular segment of people in Kashmir. He said scrapping of these constitutional provisions has given a big jolt to those Kashmir centric politicians who misused their constitutional powers for looting the wealth of J&K. He hailed the timely decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, which has saved the people of Jammu region from the lopsided policies of exploitative leaders of the Valley. He expressed hope that abrogation of these Articles will pave way for development of the Jammu region.



Ashish Pandey, while welcoming abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, demanded minority status for Hindus residing in the erstwhile State. He said Hindus and Sikhs should be granted minority status, which they have been denied by the successive governments. "It is a human rights violation for Hindus that despite being in minority, they are not getting the benefits given to minorities. It is sheer injustice," he said, adding that the people of Jammu region are facing discrimination for the past 70 years. He said that the abrogation of Article 370 was the need of the hour as it ensured freedom to the people of Jammu region from the politics of prejudice by certain Kashmir-centric politicians.

While Jammu and Kashmir was waiting for scrapping of the gender discriminatory Article 35A, the abrogation of Article 370 came as a pleasant surprise, which nobody had anticipated. The bold decision exposed the political bankruptcy of the exploitative politicians of the Valley, who had created a perception about this provision being the most sacrosanct, which nobody could even touch. However, August 5, 2019 proved them wrong and the world saw how the contentious provisions of Article 370 were removed with ease and precision with the majority support in Rajya Sabha and later in Lok Sabha. The landmark move was like a dream coming true for patriots in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.



Surinder Chandhoke, a businessman said that most of the development works of Jammu region were stalled due to lack of funds. He said that there is rampant corruption in the State due to which the development could not be completed. He said funds meant for development were misused by some unscrupulous politicians of the Valley having vested interest. He said Central Government from time to time sanctioned funds to the tune of crores of rupees for J&K to ensure development but political class hailing from the Valley brazenly siphoned that money and hampered the progress of the region. He appreciated the work done by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of progress and prosperity with people availing all the benefits of central government's welfare schemes without any hindrance. He hoped that after the removal of controversial Article 370, J&K will now emerge as the most developed part of the country.

Pooja Dutta, a house wife termed the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A historic. She asserted that revocation of Article 370 provisions, granting special status to erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State, will ultimately pave the way for a new era of progress and development besides satiation of aspirations without discrimination.

"PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah have created history. The historic decision is in the interest of the nation. Modi understood the pain of people of Jammu," she said. "This decision is going to change our fate. Now we will be our decision-makers, not under Kashmir-centric political set-up that discriminated us on all fronts for the past seven decades," she said, adding that with this decision the daughters of J&K who are married outside the state will get their rights at par with women across the country.



Satya Lal Sharma, an elderly and retired employee of **Krishi Vibhag J&K**, appreciated the bold and courageous step taken by PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for abrogating Articles 370 and 35A on August 5 which stirred the nation and also removed the barrier of making J&K State an integral part of India.

"Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh will have ample chances of development in all the schemes of various sectors," he said, adding "India became independent from British Rule on August 15, 1947 but J&K State became independent on October 25-26, 1947 after Maharaja Hari Singh signed the document of Accession with India. Many Prime Ministers governed India but none of them showed courage and determination to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A which were provisional in the constitution. I fully believe that scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A will prove to be boon for J&K and Ladakh Union Territories," he maintained.



Revocation of special status to end appeasement, lead to Jammu's development



Surjeet Chaudhary, a resident of Suchetgarh said that repealing of Article 370 is a boon for people of various communities including refugees, who were earlier deprived of their basic rights. He said that population of West Pakistan Refugees is nearly 1.5 lakh, settled only in Jammu region of the erstwhile State. Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his bold historic decision, he said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A would certainly end decades-old discrimination against refugees by entitling them to get full citizenship rights.

He said that the successive governments had only promised to extend PRC to the refugees, but in fact cheated them by denying basic rights of education, employment, property ownership and political participation.



Rishav Mahajan, an employee in private sector, said that removal of Article 370 will bring stability and market access to Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the decision of Modi Government to revoke Article 370 would ensure stability, market access and predictable laws in the State, helping it gain investment, especially in key sectors like tourism, agriculture, IT, healthcare besides others. He hoped after the abrogation of Article 370, the investment would start coming in besides opening new vistas of employment for

youth of the state. "Open markets will ensure that youth of the region will lead the nation towards progress besides giving a major boost to investment, innovation and income," Mahajan added.

Why the people of Jammu and Ladakh regions are jubilant and elated over revocation of Article 370 is their belief that they will get a fair-deal, which they were denied for almost seven decades by self-centered politicians, who promoted Kashmir for their vested interest? Instead of feeling satisfied over the spread of education, eradication of poverty, extent of development and provision of jobs, many in the Valley became silent supporters of Jihad unleashed by Pakistan. This led to unprecedented appeasement by the Centre in a vain bid to win over the hearts and minds and resultantly choked the process of development in the other two regions. Now that the hoax of special status is gone, the people of Jammu, like those in the exclusive Union Territory of Ladakh, are hopeful about justice in fair allocation of funds for development and avenues in jobs, which may get fillip with influx of investment by the corporate sector.



Pardeep Majotra said that the people of J&K have high hopes from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah after removal of the special status of J&K.

"With removal of Articles 370 and 35A and Re-organisation of J&K into two Union Territories, people are hopeful that decades long spell of discrimination and step-motherly treatment will end with beginning of a new era of unprecedented development and progress in J&K," he said, adding that a new ray of hope has emerged among people that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was diverted to Kashmir by successive governments.

Dinesh Verma, an engineer by profession said the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has ended the dynastic rule in Jammu and Kashmir, which had been directly or indirectly ruling the state for the last seven decades. He said that after the removal of Article 370 all central rules will directly applicable to J&K. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have wholeheartedly welcomed the decision of PM Modi and are anticipating that new Union Territory will bring new era of development in J&K. He said since the Narendra Modi has took over the reins of Prime Minister's office, the country is on the path of progress and is breaking all records of development.



Balbir Kour, a Sarpanch from Arnia said that lifting of Articles 370 and 35A will be a good sign for people of Jammu and Kashmir. She said that Article 370 was a temporary provision of the constitution of the India. She said that Prime Minister and Home Minister took a wise decision by lifting the controversial Articles 370 and 35A from J&K. She said abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will give wide exposure to the State which will be fruitful for youth of J&K. "Jammuites are eagerly looking for new avenues and opportunities that hold promise for generations to grow in a developed society something the past over three generations missed due to Kashmir-centric policies of political class," she added.



Article 370 led to burgeoning unemployment in J&K



Subash Chander Sharma, LIC Advisor, said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A will remove prejudice being faced by the people of Jammu region and women for the past over 70 years. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their due-share in various spheres while Kashmir-centric politicians looted the wealth unabatedly. "Now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful of a new-era, as gigantic development is expected to take place in J&K", he said and thanked Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for satiating aspirations of Jammu people, who always faced discrimination by successive

Governments in every sector.



Rakesh Sharma, State President of Rashtriya Bajrang Dal, while welcoming the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, emphasized that interests of locals in J&K should be safeguarded by enacting Constitutional provisions on the pattern of Himachal Pradesh.

He said that allaying fears of people on losing land and jobs following abrogation of special Constitutional provisions of the State should be topmost priority of the government.

Maintaining that Jammu people had always remained strong votary of complete integration of J&K with the Indian Union, Sharma said that repealing of these Articles has cut the wings of anti-nationals and

enemy acting from across the border.

Many people in Jammu believe that the misinformation being generated about jobs to be hijacked by 'outsiders' in the wake of repeal of Articles 370 and 35A does not hold good at all. While stressing the need for checks and balances about properties and recruitments in the government sector, on the analogy of Himachal Pradesh, they hope that the measures initiated by the Centre would actually promote large scale investments which in turn will lead to generation of jobs in the private and corporate sector.



JJ Singh, General Secretary of J&K Freedom Fighters Association said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir were deprived of their due-share in various spheres while politicians with vested interest looted the wealth unabatedly. He said that scrapping of Article 370 has shutdown their shops which earlier they were running by misguiding the people of Kashmir Valley. "It is a historic moment for Jammu and Kashmir. Entire population is thankful to Modi for fulfilling their long pending demand,"

Singh said and appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take adequate measures to address the aspirations of Jammu people by taking adequate steps for the overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Manoj Kumar, a businessman said that Articles 370 and 35A should have been scrapped much earlier. He said that the people of J&K have suffered a lot due to contentious Article 370. He said the common man of Jammu only faced sufferings due to this Article as he got step-motherly treatment in every sector whether education or employment in government sector.

He said, "I have witnessed the working of successive governments in J&K and the people of Kashmir Valley are real sufferers as political class there has misused the youth by instigating them to indulge in stone-pelting and other anti-national activities".



Kulvinder Singh, a resident of Jammu, said that Article 370 was the reason behind development deficit and joblessness in J&K State. He asserted that the youth have been forced to move out from J&K in search of their livelihood as Article 370 was the biggest hurdle in the development of State. He said that entire country has witnessed large scale development since independence but people in J&K were deprived of the same due to Article 370. He said, "With abrogation of Article 370 and splitting of J&K into two Union Territories, the decades-old discrimination with Jammu will end and the region will also develop at par with other States of the country".



Article 370 had promoted regional disharmony, discrimination



Harkeerat Kour, a graduate, said that the abrogation of Art 370 was the most welcome step of BJP Government and the credit goes to the bold deciding prowess of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This heaven on earth handed over to India by Maharaja Hari Singh through an Instrument of Accession in 1947 was eclipsed with the Art 370 coupled with lop sided delimitation by the then rulers. This Article besides having enormous negative factors remained a point for the neighbouring country to spread misleading claims. The State of Jammu and Kashmir and specifically, the Ladakh and

Jammu Divisions have now only seen the light of day. The people of J&K are most excited to cherish the prosperity and heavenly dreams in the days to come", she said and added "We expect better prospects for our career after big companies and MNCs will move in and there would be hardly any craze for going abroad".



Ankush Mahajan, a resident of Jammu, said that Art 370 was a curse for Jammu and Kashmir which created disharmony, regionalism and a hurdle in the development of State. He said that in spite of enormous natural resources, J&K's speed of development remained stagnant during last seven decades. He hailed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for revoking this Article. He said that taking benefit of this Article the rulers confined their vision of development unto themselves. "As a result of this clause as also the attitude of the rulers, the major companies lost their investment in the State. Since all types of restrictions have been cleared these companies will love to open their business and the youth will get employment", he said.

Believing that the contentious provisions in the Article 370 had hugely promoted regional disharmony and encouraged discrimination in Jammu and Kashmir, the people now believe that justice will be done to the marginalized segments of the two regions, which remained at the receiving end over the decades. The Jammu and Ladakh regions witnessed total neglect due to the Kashmir-centric policies adopted by leaders having myopic vision.

The element of discrimination was discernible in development, employment and implementation of various welfare schemes. Now the people hope that benefits of welfare schemes will percolate down to all segments of society in the erstwhile State.



Pandit Jeet Kumar of Nagrota appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for fulfilling election promise of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A. He said that people of Jammu and Kashmir, baring the ruling clan, grossly hailed this decision and said that this land of Saints will redeem its original glory and attraction for the pilgrims. He said that Article 370 remained horrifying for the pilgrims visiting this part of the country and those who dared to come did not visit with open mind and restricted themselves up

to the safer places only. According to him the abrogation of Art 370 will double the flow of pilgrims and tourists thereby increasing the income of concerned sectors.

Subash Singh Manhas, a shopkeeper, thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and congratulated the common people who have now seen light of the day and have come out of the clutches of few families, who had been ruling the State since long time. He said that small businessmen, tradesmen, labourers, farmers and other marginalised sections of society could not cherish the taste of Independence till date and always remained worried for the evening food while the few selected families continued becoming richer and the common man and the poor remained becoming poorer during all these years. He hoped that the present dispensation at the Centre will definitely bring prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.



Aditya, a resident of Janipur Jammu, hailed the abrogation of Article 370 and thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking this bold step. He also welcomed his announcement for steering Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Union Territories to the pinnacles of development and prosperity.

He said that the common man not only in Jammu and Kashmir but in whole of the country is very happy over the abrogation of this clause of the Constitution. He said that its first impact will be on pilgrimage and tourism which will increase manifold and further more it will generate employment for the qualified youths, particularly those from Jammu who had earlier been moving to other states and abroad for their career.



Kashmir shutdown-yet another act of Dramabazi



JAMMU: Since game changer day of August 5 this year, lot of hue and cry is being raised over, what they say, 'Kashmir under siege'. A malicious, sinister and anti-

national perception is being generated that the Valley has been forced to close down by 'oppressive and repressive India and Indian forces' since the special status of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked. It is really true?

If Kashmir has been locked down, how do shops open for specific hours in the morning and evening every day? How come the Srinagar Passport Office issue 6,400 passports since August 5, some of these on counters and witnessed huge footfall of applications each day? Isn't it true that the Srinagar hospitals carried out 5000 major surgeries between August 5 and 30? How much quantity of Kashmiri apple has hit the Mandis outside the Valley since so-called 'siege'? Interestingly, during the so-called clamp-

down, the withdrawals from the ATMs of various banks in the Valley have been significantly high.

The propaganda on the so-called shutdown has been mischievous with propagandists, however, failing in convincing the world as to why the business establishments are running without fail in the morning and during evenings? The truth is that they are hoodwinking the public opinion. There is actually no siege or shutdown. Downing of shutters between 10 in the morning and 6 in evenings is just a façade to play victimhood.

The shutdown is forced when aggrieved parties call for Bandh to press their demands or the government imposes restrictions for maintaining law and order. Such a situation remains in force for a day or two but not for unspecified period. In the case of Kashmir, however, the scenario is quite different. There is a method in the madness. The sympathizers of Jihad have been indoctrinated to such an extent that they can go to any extent in maligning India. To achieve this, they can play their cheap and hilarious roles as directed from across the border. The past 30 years of

disturbed conditions and terrorism unleashed by Pakistan has sadly transformed majority of Kashmiris as hypocrites, or to be specific, actors or Dramabazs, who keep on enacting Dramas, scripted by the ISI and its radicalised Jihadis. They have perfected in the art of Dramas, which is why nobody is now taking these acts very seriously.

In the theatre of propaganda, the Kashmiri radicals are now fully exposed. Their anti-national acts can't anymore dent the image of the nation but in the process they are putting the future of their generations in jeopardy.

True, there are restrictions on internet services and mobile phony but that is for safety of the people. For the sins of Kashmiri trouble-makers, the peace loving Jammu people are also suffering in terms of internet shutdown. Nobody is talking about normalcy and, in a way, jubilant mood across Jammu region over the moves taken by the Centre towards integration. The actor turned Congress politician Urmila Matondkar, married to some Mohsin Akhtar Mir of Kashmir, can hog headlines for not 'having spoken to her

mother-in-law and father-in-law, suffering from blood-pressure, diabetes for 22 days", but the thousands of jawans and soldiers standing in the hostile lanes and by lanes of Kashmir find no mention anywhere for their being cut-off from their families due to communication breakdown.

Nobody is asking Kashmiris as to why they don't send their children to schools despite assurances from the administration but everybody will cry hoarse about future of young generation turning bleak. There has not been a single instance about babies sleeping without milk or anybody dying due to starvation. It is not for the first time that such a situation has arisen in the Valley. Past three decades are replete of instances when Kashmir remained shut for weeks together due to calls given by Pakistan funded separatists. But never ever have people suffered for want of essentials, medicines or the various other services. Kashmir must be a unique strife-zone across the world that does not show rubble anywhere due to Pak sponsored terrorism like Jalalabad, Waziristan and Syria. Kashmir is not all

about screams, killings, rapes, extortions, atrocities, human rights violations as is being made out to run the Jihad regime. This is exaggerated version of the place that is being projected across the world with malicious intent by those who have developed vested interest over the years. They are the people who had unleashed canards about restrictions over religious activities in the Valley during thick of terrorism, notwithstanding the fact that people used to offer prayers on roadsides due to paucity of space in mosques. The mindset of project Kashmiris as victims has not changed. It will not change either because that will render the bigwigs among mainstream and off-stream camps irrelevant. Boiling Kashmir is their sustenance and hence showcasing it in dark is inevitable. Kashmir is being used as a commodity and a saleable product by other stakeholders like the so-called activists, the track-two diplomats, the non-governmental organisations and other 'sponsored' agencies across the world as well, as it earns them rehabilitation, in one format or the other. Whenever they talk about Kashmir, they paint a

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Jammu is poised for huge development after repeal of Article 370



Corporator Satpaul Karlupia asserted that post scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) will be strengthened with the implementation of 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. He said these amendments will also strengthen Urban Local Bodies at grass roots level. He said that elected Panchs and Sarpanchs are facing numerous problems due to lack of funds but it is likely that after reorganisation of J&K, things will change and Modi government will take proactive steps to strengthen the democratic institutions and work for the welfare of the rural populace. Karlupia hailed the bold and courageous decision of the BJP led Government at the Centre whereby these controversial Articles of the Constitution were abrogated. He said people are wholeheartedly supporting the Modi Government for its nationalistic policies.



Parvinder Mittal, General Secretary, Aggarwal Sabha, Jammu welcomed abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A. He said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. He said that Modi government had taken a "historic" decision to abrogate Article 370, which he claims will result in massive development in the entire region. Now, J&K will witness massive development, he said, adding the people from across the country will come here for establishing new ventures which will open new avenues for the youth. He hoped that with the reorganisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects, creating employment avenues, foreign investment and tourism in Jammu at par with rest of the country. He hoped that after obtaining the status of Union Territory, the people of Jammu will get equal rights with no discrimination.

The people of Jammu region are enthused over measures initiated by the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in integrating the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir emotionally with rest of the country. This, they feel, will end the psychological barriers and sense of discrimination among various segments post carving out of new Union Territories. It will be a beginning and new dawn for these two entities, which will grow and flourish as equal and important partners in the journey to peace, progress and development.



Former Minister Priya Sethi said that scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A brought a ray of hope for communities which were the victims of successive governments' apathy. She said that several communities residing in J&K have suffered a lot due to anti-people policies of the Valley based political parties. She said that Kashmir centric leaders never expected these provisions could be revoked in such a way. "They used the special status as shield and never projected the sufferings of the people before the Central Government in right perspective thus forcing the Jammu region to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities", she maintained. She asserted that in the New J&K Jammu people will get equal rights and opportunities. The daughters of J&K will not have to shun their rights even after marrying someone from outside, she said. She hoped that after the re-organisation of the State, Modi Government will take all possible steps for the overall development and growth wherein several opportunities will be created for the youth to ensure that they have a bright and glittering future.

Advocate Sachin Gupta said that the drawback of Article 370 was that it promoted corruption and made J&K the most corrupt State in the country. He said it has patronised only some families in the State which brazenly misused this controversial and temporary provision for their personal motives. He said due to Kashmir centric policies our recruitment agencies like Public Service Commission, SSRB and PSUs were weakened due to which the youth of Jammu region suffered a lot. He said that recruitment agencies should be centralized by appointing some dedicated and honest persons so that the meritorious youth get justice. He also sought accountability in such of the government departments having their own Recruitment Boards so that the youth do not suffer. He also appealed to the government to secure the forest land which has been illegally grabbed by some unscrupulous elements. Government should appoint some dedicated IAS officers in the upcoming Union Territory J&K for proper revival of industrialization so that new opportunities can be created, he said.



Vivek Bangwal, a social activist said that J&K people have whole-heartedly supported the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A by the BJP Government. He mentioned the people have suffered a lot on all fronts especially development, employment, distribution of funds, etc. He said that none in the successive governments had the courage to remove the controversial Article 370. "For the past about seven decades the people have suffered a lot due to this controversial Article and their grievances remained unaddressed but now after J&K becoming a UT, they are hopeful that all necessary steps would be taken to mitigate their sufferings," he said, asking people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by extending support to the BJP at grassroots level.



Revocation of Article 370 to benefit all segments of J&K society



Corporator Ajay Gupta hailed the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the people of Jammu faced discrimination at all levels due to aforesaid Articles. "The State lagged much behind from other states as far as development is concerned. People were forced to run from pillar to post for employment, medical and educational facilities and other purposes but now after repealing of Article 370, the people of Jammu are hopeful that move will usher a new era peace and progress here", he said and hoped that from now onwards all modern facilities will be provided to residents of Jammu and Kashmir without any bias. Now, the newly formed Jammu Kashmir Union Territory will be brought under One Flag and One Constitution and there will be no place for anti-national elements, he added.



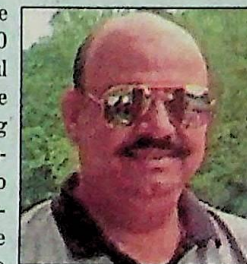
Gagandeep Singh, an Engineering Student highly appreciated the Prime Minister's step for abrogation of the disastrous Article 370 from the Constitution of India. He said that this contentious Article and its supporting Article 35A were included in the Constitution by the then Rulers in the Centre to favour the selected politicians of the State of Jammu and Kashmir who were anti-Maharaja. "These Articles indeed benefitted such politicians but doomed the fate of common man of Jammu and even those from Valley. When the common man from Valley came to know of the game of these politicians they came out against the loot but on being suppressed, they took to the guns thus laying foundation of terrorism. The common man of the State of Jammu and Kashmir continued to suffer for the last three decades just because of the blessings made available to these politicians through aforesaid Articles. Barring such politicians and their sympathizers, the people of whole state are celebrating the abrogation of Art 370.

Common refrain among the people in Jammu and Kashmir is that revocation of Articles 370 and 35A will benefit all segments of society, irrespective of caste, creed, colour and religion. They perceive these constitutional provisions as tool in the hands of politicians with vested interest, who exploited the people and hoodwinked the rulers that be in New Delhi. The people, especially the youth see the new era post revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state as a beginning of industrialization in both Kashmir and Jammu regions that will in the process generate employment and create employability. They see a hope and light emanating after a dark tunnel.

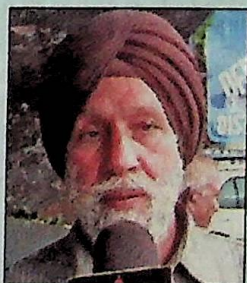


Vivek Gupta, a businessman appreciated the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for scrapping the Articles 370 and 35A and hoped that this landmark decision will break the backbone of terrorists and shall lead to peace and prosperity in the region. He asserted that earlier, the future of J&K's youth was bleak but after this historic move of Modi-led BJP Government at the Centre a new hope has kindled among the youngsters that they shall now have bright prospects in the J&K and Ladakh as well. He also lambasted the successive governments for depriving the West Pakistani Refugees of their voting and other rights. He also hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. He felt that abrogation of aforesaid Article is rising of 'New Jammu and Kashmir', where people will enjoy their rights without any fear or discrimination.

Sudershan Singh, social activist appreciated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for scrapping Articles 370 and 35A from J&K. He said people of J&K are hopeful of good governance after the re-organization of the State. He said government should focus on creating employment opportunities and take all adequate measures in adjusting the highly qualified youth of J&K into the government services. He said due to lack of employment opportunities in J&K, government sector is the only hope for the highly qualified youth of J&K. He also expressed resentment against the government for installing toll plazas at Dyala Chak and Sarore. He said that government should take stock of dilapidated condition of national highway from Lakhanpur to Jammu. Besides, the Grievances Cell should be strengthened to make it more effective so that the problems of common masses could be addressed on priority.



Appreciating the decision taken by NDA Govt regarding scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A, Amrik Singh Sasan, a resident of Jammu said that Modi Government has take the decision after going through all 'pros and cons'. He urged the Government to take all possible measures to address problems being faced by employees of J&K. If Government can abrogate controversial Articles 370 & 35A, then it can do everything for welfare of employee fraternity. He appealed to Modi government to convert State Transport Corporation into Jammu Transport Undertaking, so that employees can get all benefits along with various other facilities, of which they are deprived of till date. He further appealed to Modi government to revive pension benefit for employees, so that they may not feel alienated.



Article 370 provisos gave J&K nothing but deprivation



Jaswinder Singh, a college student appreciated the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for giving relief to the people of Jammu region who were facing the apathy of Kashmiri politicians. He said that it was a historic blunder which kept Kashmir bleeding for 70 years and lakhs of people were deprived of their rights. He said that the State has suffered a lot, both economically and emotionally, due to exploitation. He said the administration, working under Governor Satya Pal Malik, is playing a vital role in maintaining law and order in Jammu and Kashmir. He said J&K people have whole-heartedly supported scrapping

of aforesaid Article by the BJP Government. "They are hopeful that equal rights and opportunities will now be ensured", he said. "Soon after reorganization of J&K, the people will get equal rights at par with other citizens of India", he asserted.



Ashok Kumar, an employee in private sector, said that the termination of Article 370 brought a new ray of hope among the people of Jammu. He hoped that removal of Article 370 will bring investment and development in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. He said the people of Jammu region have been suffering due to the Kashmir-centric policies of successive governments for the past seven decades. "The people are confident that the Jammu region would get its due share as earlier the same was

diverted to Kashmir by the successive governments," he added. He asked the people of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is working for the welfare of people of the country. "Lifting of aforesaid Article will bring the people of J&K at par with other citizens of the country", he maintained.

Now that the State of Jammu and Kashmir is in the process of bifurcation in terms of J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, debate is on how the temporary provisions of Article 370 deprived the regions of Jammu and Ladakh. The sense of deprivation and discrimination had forced the people of the desert region to intensify their struggle for Union Territory status. They have got it. Like people of Ladakh, those in Jammu also feel free from the shackles of subjugation by the Kashmir-centric political executives. All they want is development, equitable opportunities in jobs and effective implementation of various welfare schemes. They are hopeful about 'good days' with corporate sector making investments in J&K, which may generate jobs for the educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled workforce.



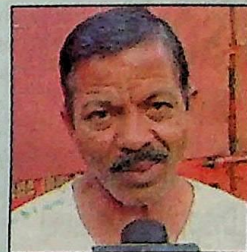
Aditya, a college student said that Article 370 deprived the people of Jammu and Kashmir from their legitimate rights. He said that due to this special status, the political leaders had never projected the sufferings of the people before the Central Government in right perspective thus forcing the Jammu region to reel under deprivation and dearth of facilities. He hoped that with the re-organisation of J&K, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make all possible efforts to bring developmental projects in Jammu at par with rest of the country. He expressed gratitude to

Modi government for ensuring freedom to people in real sense and hoped the Jammu region will get its due as a matter of right.

Rajesh Kumar businessman averred that the abrogation of Article 370 was the need of the time as the Kashmir-centric policies being propagated by certain politicians with vested interests had deprived people of Jammu and Ladakh from enjoying their basic rights. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for taking this bold step. He also welcomed PM's announcement for steering Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Union Territories to the pinnacles of development and prosperity. He said that the common man not only in Jammu and Kashmir but in whole of the country is very happy over the abrogation of this clause of the Constitution. He said that small businessman, tradesmen, labourers, farmers and other marginalized sections of society could not cherish the taste of Independence till date and always remained worried for the evening food while the few select families continued becoming richer and the common man and the poor remained becoming poorer these 72 years. He hoped that the present dispensation at the Centre will definitely bring prosperity in J&K.



Sham Lal, a resident of Jammu, congratulated Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for taking this significant decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A from the J&K. He said, "It is a bold, historic and much-needed change for J&K. The Article 370 was a big mistake done by few vested interests, without taking care of people's aspirations. People suffered a lot due to this controversial provision, as it was the root cause of miseries including unemployment, corruption, lack of development and terrorism. I believe that this historic decision will make Kashmir terrorism-free and lead it on the path of over-all development." He hoped that abrogation of Article 370 would definitely improve the socio-economic status of people to a great extent.



With Art 370 gone, development initiatives will roll out in Jammu



Vikas Mengi, a resident of Jammu hoped that tourism will get major boost with the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A from the J&K. He said several multinational companies are planning to invest in Jammu and Kashmir from the tourism point of view which will set to tread the path of overall development, which will eventually lead to lot of openings for youth to earn their livelihood. "We got real freedom on August 5, 2019 after abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, as earlier we were living under slavery of Kashmir-centric politicians," he said, adding that people of Jammu region were the worst sufferers and faced wrath of Kashmiri rulers under the garb of aforesaid contentious Articles of the constitution. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah did a remarkable job by removing these Articles which will also resolve the unemployment crisis in the Jammu and Kashmir.



Vakalat Ram Sharma, a senior citizen said that PM Modi has taken a wise decision on abrogating the Article 370 from the Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes from the Prime Minister and Home Minister after the re-organisation of the State. He hoped that people of J&K would witness a new era of development in coming time and extended full support to BJP Government at the Centre for taking this bold and revolutionary step. He said that this bold decision will go a long way in achieving the agenda of development in J&K and would be recorded in archives of the history in golden letters. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for revoking the controversial Articles 370 and 35A, and assured whole-hearted support to BJP in its stride for ensuring welfare of people.

Optimistic about growth and development taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, the man on street in Jammu feels that Narendra Modi led NDA government will undertake major initiatives to prove the point that Article 370 was, in no way, beneficial for the people of the erstwhile State. They understand the challenges ahead but are confident that once situation in Kashmir returns to normal, investments will start trickling in to give boost to the economy. As far as Jammu region is concerned, they are hopeful that developmental inertia and discrimination unleashed by the previous Kashmir-centric governments will come to an end and new opportunities will greet the youth in respect of employment and employability. Development will take over deprivation and hope will superimpose on despair. The people just want the new initiatives to roll out.



Urvashi Gupta, BJP leader termed the Article 370 as a curse which has been removed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. She said that this controversial Article had created a difference between son and daughter of J&K. She hailed PM Modi for providing due rights to the daughters of J&K, who were deprived earlier. She said scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A has given a big jolt to the Kashmiri politicians who misused their constitutional power for looting the wealth of J&K. She added that the move was the long pending demand of people of Jammu region. She hoped that abrogation of these Articles will pave way for the development of Jammu region.

Sunil Bhasin, a resident of Jammu asserted that the repealing of Articles 370 and 35A will lead to the overall development of the State.



"With removal of such controversial article, it is hoped that a number of multi-national companies would set-up their units in Jammu, thereby opening new employment avenues for youth, who till date were worst sufferer of Kashmir-centric policies," Bhasin added.

Bhasin said that people of J&K will be benefitted by this move the most and hoped that after acquiring Union Territory status, the youth may not have to move out, as corporate sector will have a huge presence in this part of the country. "Now funds coming from the Centre would be equally distributed between Jammu and Kashmir regions. People of Ladakh would also get their due share, which they deserve," he added.

Randhir Singh, a Jammu-based businessman pointed out that removal of Article 370 will end the discrimination being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the last seventy years. He stated that earlier majority shares of all development schemes and packages released by the Union Government for overall development of the J&K were diverted to Valley, ignoring people of Jammu region. He asserted that the previous governments also failed to properly project needs of Jammu region before the Center, as Valley always remained their priority. But in reality, Kashmir based politicians had befooled Valley people and used them for their personal motives besides looting State exchequer to fill their coffers. He said that Modi government has taken a bold and courageous decision by abrogating this controversial Act.



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